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REPORT

OF

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY

TO

THE GENERAL MEETING, DEC. 12, 1816.

WITH

AN APPENDIX.

London:

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British and Foreign School Society.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT, An Annual Subscriber of £100.

VICE-PATRONS.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.

PRESIDENT. • HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Most Noble the MARQUIS of LANSDOWNE. The Most Noble the MARQUIS of TAVISTOCK. The Most Noble the MARQUIS of HASTINGS. The Right Honourable the EARL of DARNLEY. The Right Honourable the EARL of ROSSLYN. The Right Honourable the EARL of FINGALL, The Right Honourable LORD BYRON. The Right Honourable LORD CARRINGTON. The Right Hononrable LORD CLIFFORD. The Right Honourable LORD EARDLEY. The Hon, Lord Chief Commissioner ADAM. Sir JOHN JACKSON, Bart. M.P. Sir JOHN SWINBURNE, Bart. Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY, M.P. Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH, M.P. HENRY GRATTAN, Esq. M.P. FRANCIS HORNER, Esq. M.P. JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P. WILLIAM SMITH, Esq. M.P. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq. M.P. HENRY BROUGHAM, Esq. M.P. CHARLES BARCLAY, Esq. M.P.

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FOREIGN SECRETARY.
Rev. Dr. SCHWABE.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Mr. JAMES MILLAR, Queen-street, Bloomsbury.

COLLECTOR.

Mr. BENJAMIN LEPARD, Punderson Place, Bethnal Green.

COMMITTEE FOR 1816.

Rev. Dr. Abauzit Abram Rawlinson Barclay William Corston John Capper Henry Cockfield William Crawford Charles Stokes Dudley John Evans Samuel Favell Joseph Foster John Fell, Sen. Richard Fell Michael Gibbs John Allen Gilham George Green Benjamin C. Griffenhoofe Rev. Rowland Hill Luke Howard Thomas Heaver Edward Harris Samuel Hoare, Jun. Joseph Janson Rev. Thomas Jones Rev. Dr. Lindsay

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AUDITORS.

William Williams

Henry Waymouth Michael Gibbs T. B. Oldfield C. S. Dudley. At a Meeting of the British and Foreign School Society, held at Free Masons' Hall, on Thursday the 12th December 1816;

His Royal Highness the DUKE of SUSSEX in the Chair:

Mr. Foster having read the Report; on the motion of WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Esq. seconded by John Smith, Esq. M.P.—it was

Resolved unanimously,

1. That the Report now read be received, adopted, and printed under the direction of the Committee.

On the motion of Sultan Katte-Gerry Krim-Gherry, from Caucasus, seconded by the Rev. Joseph Hughes,—it was

Resolved unanimously,

2. That this Meeting, sensible of their high obligation to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent for his liberal support of this Society, and to Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex for their continued patronage, do most respectfully present their grateful acknowledgements to those illustrious personages.

On the motion of His Excellency Baron Just, seconded by Joseph Hume, Esq.—it was

Resolved unanimously,

3. That the most cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to His Grace the Duke of Bedford the President, to the Most Noble the Right Honourable and others the Vice-Presidents, for the continuance of their patronage and support to this Society.

On the motion of Mr. Yeoland, of Malta, seconded by John Pugh, Esq.—it was

Resolved unanimously,

4. That the sincere thanks of this Meeting be given to WILLIAM ALLEN, Esq. the Treasurer, and the Rev. Dr. Schwabe the Foreign Secretary, for their valuable and important services.

On the motion of the Rev. John Clayton, Jun. seconded by Robert Steven, Esq.—it was

Resolved unanimously,

5. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Committee of Ladies, for their valuable aid in conducting the Female Department of this Institution. On the motion of the Rev. John Townsend, seconded by the Rev. Rowland Hill,—it was

Resolved unanimously,

6. That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Auxiliary Committees of Bristol, Southwark, and the North-East District of London, for their zealous exertions to promote the object and augment the Funds of this Society; from whose example the Society anticipate a considerable increase of Schools on the plan recommended by this Institution, whereby the important object of religious instruction will be attained by the regular attendance of the children at Divine Service and Sunday Schools.

On the motion of B. C. GRIFFENHOOFE, Esq. seconded by the Rev. Mr. Cox,—it was

Resolved unanimously,

7. That the grateful thanks of this Meeting be respectfully presented to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, for his obliging and condescending attention to the business of this day.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, before he quitted the Chair, proposed to the Meeting that a minute should be entered on the Records of the Society, expressive of the deep sense of gratitude they felt for the disin-

terested and zealous exertions of the late Mr. Joseph Fox, who had formerly filled the office of Secretary in a manner most honourable to himself, and most beneficial to the Society.

This Resolution was carried by general acclamation.

REPORT

TO THE GENERAL MEETING,

DECEMBER, 1816.

Your Committee are at this time called upon to report on the progress of Education at home and abroad, in those Institutions, which have adopted the British System of Instruction.

Looking first to their own country, your Committee state with the highest satisfaction, that the numerous Reports transmitted to them from various parts of the United Kingdom, agree in bearing ample testimony, both to the increasing attention to the cause of Universal Education, and to the continued success of the Schools which have that great object in view.—While the wisdom of the British Legislature has been directed to a minute investigation of the intellectual wants of the people, and the best means of supplying them, the public spirit appears every where to advance towards a perfect readiness for a zealous cooperation in such measures, as are likely to accomplish so momentous an object. Ignorance will soon

hardly find in Great Britain an avowed advocate; and jealous rivalship is, your Committee hope, rapidly proceeding to assume the gentler nature of a laudable and useful emulation. Nothing, indeed, can be more gratifying than to observe, that, notwithstanding the pressure so severely felt by all classes in society, and in every part of the country, not only the schools previously established have continued to receive the necessary support, but new ones have been opened, while still others are about to be formed.

The salutary influence of the formation of Auxiliary Societies has already appeared:—That of Southwark, constituted within the present year, has given rise to two associations in Newington and Lambeth; of which the former is now preparing to erect a school for 300 boys, and the latter may be expected speedily to follow the example.

The Bristol Society is also pursuing its object with unabated ardour: two thousand boys and five hundred girls have already been admitted into their schools; and the field of their operation will be considerably enlarged, when their new School Rooms, for the erection of which they have succeeded in raising nearly an adequate sum, shall be completed.

Some progress has already been made towards establishing an Auxiliary Society in the North-east district of London: but however important such a measure is for that populous part of the metropolis, the great efforts, which the circumstances of the times have rendered necessary for the supply of the temporal wants of a great part of its suffering population, have hitherto prevented, and probably will for some time longer retard, its completion.

The vicinity of Shadwell and of Poplar has been more fortunate; both these places have obtained new and large Schools, the former for 400 boys and 200 girls. In the Report of this new Institution your Committee have noticed with great pleasure the provision made for the reception of Roman Catholic children, and the cordial co-operation of several highly respectable members of that religious persuasion. By adopting a course of Scripture lessons, consisting of whole chapters from the English authorised version, the scruples and apprehensions of all parties have been satisfactorily removed.

For extracts from the Reports on the state of the various local Institutions, your Committee are obliged to refer to the Appendix, where several highly interesting details will be found, though it is impossible to notice every School, which has deserved, and received, the approbation of its Directors, or the labours of every local Committee, who have evinced a laudable and meritorious zeal in promoting the interest of the rising generation: but your Committee cannot deny themselves the gratification of expressing, in this place, the satisfaction they have derived from observing, that, in many instances, an increased attention has been paid to the proper observance of the Sabbath;

that the admonitions addressed to the parents, to insist upon their children attending such places of worship as they may prefer, have generally been very successful; and that the beneficial effects of this measure upon the behaviour of the children have been very evident. It is impossible to contemplate without pleasure the result of the inquiries on that important subject, regularly made in the Borough Road School for a long time past; from which it appears, that the instances of a total neglect of attendance at a place of worship on the Sunday are not only very few, but progressively decreasing. An extract from the Reports made to the Committee, at each of its meetings, will undoubtedly be highly satisfactory to the public. It shows that, in the week ending the 10th of November, of 358 children only 2 were absent from public worship, and of these 221 attended Sunday Schools *.

Thus the accusation, that no attention is paid in the Schools of the British and Foreign School. Society to the religious improvement of the children, is refuted by plain and simple facts, and proved to rest on an incorrect notion of its operations: very many of the children who attend the Schools on the British System during the week,

^{*} The attendance of children at their respective places of worship, has been regularly enforced by various Committees with the greatest success, and with very little trouble to the Committees. See Appendix,—Camberwell, Charlbury, Whitby, Carlisle, Birmingham, &c.

belong also to some Sunday School; and your Committee cannot forbear expressing, that they consider themselves as indebted to the patrons and conductors of the various Sunday Schools, who charge themselves with so large a proportion of the children on the Sabbath day, and conduct them regularly to their respective places of public worship. And they would here most distinctly state, not only their full approbation of such a measure, but their sincere wish, that, every place where Schools are conducted on the liberal plan of the British and Foreign School Society, such valuable attention might be extended to the children, as will best secure, without any restraint on the religious principles of the parents, the proper application of that sacred day: and certainly nothing can so effectually secure that object, as the establishment of well conducted Sunday Schools.

The Committee have also with pleasure remarked, that in several places the plan of receiving small weekly payments from the parents for the instruction of their children, has been successfully adopted. Not only the funds of these Institutions have thereby been considerably assisted, but the benefit of instruction itself appears, in consequence of this co-operation of the parents, to be more highly valued, and regularity of attendance more strictly observed *.

^{*} See Appendix, Horncastle, Shefford, Shrewsbury, Newbury, &c.

Various Schools have been supplied with Masters and Mistresses during the last year. It has afforded great satisfaction to your Committee, to have, in general, received a very favourable account of the conduct of the Masters supplied by your Institution.

The mental improvement of those who devote themselves to the important province of Schoolmasters, has frequently been the object of the attention of the Committee; and though both the insufficiency of their funds and the inconvenient situation of the training establishment, have prevented them from indulging all their wishes in that respect, they have availed themselves of every opportunity of affording to the young persons under the patronage of the Society such instructions, as are calculated to increase their usefulness and respectability in the station, to which they are destined: and they gratefully acknowledge the kindness, with which the Managers of the Surrey Institution have granted to several of the youths, now waiting for situations, gratuitous admission to the Lectures, which during the present season are given in that Literary Establishment.

A supply of lessons and slates requested for the use of the Schools in the Scilly Islands has been readily granted, and committed to the care of Mr. Jeffries, who makes an annual circuit to visit the Schools of those Islands.

Your Committee cannot pass over unnoticed the additional testimonies in favour of the British System of Instruction which they have received from Scotland and Ireland.

The Society for promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland, established in Dublin in the year 1811, under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, though hitherto provided with very limited funds, has already extended its beneficial operations over a wide field; for more than one hundred Schools have either been established or assisted, and eighteen Masters trained, during the fourth year of its existence, by that valuable Institution; - and the last Report of the Society communicates, not only a progressive increase of its funds, derived from Donations and Subscriptions, and proving the increasing interest which its labours excite in Ireland, but also the liberal parliamentary grant of £6,980, to be applied to the formation of a Model School, and the establishment of a Seminary for the Instruction of Masters. Both these Institutions are already in a state of progress. Contemplating the effects likely to be produced by these additional means in the hands of a very active Committee, and combining with them the success, which has already attended the indefatigable zeal of the Hibernian Society, which, with a rapidity not surpassed by any other institution, has spread the benefits of education over a very considerable part of Ireland, and is at this moment bestowing it on no less than 23,000 children; the friend of that interesting country finds ample reason to congratulate it on its progress towards internal happiness and prosperity,

notwithstanding the great share, which it has to bear of the difficulties and burdens of the present times. Your Committee cannot omit noticing in this place, that though the Institutions just mentioned are not immediately and expressly connected with your own, their labours cannot on that account be considered as foreign to this Report, or as unconnected with the object of this Meeting: for it is the peculiar privilege of the British and Foreign School Society, to consider every individual, and every society, actively engaged in promoting a wise and religious education of the people, as its associate; and most sincerely to rejoice at, and view as an approach to the accomplishment of its wishes and labours, every success attending in any place or country such public or private efforts. Nor is this interest at all diminished by some difference in the plans of instruction, that may have been adopted by the several societies or schools: for, however fully your Committee may be convinced of the superior excellence of the method practised in the Schools under their own immediate superintendence, they have never forgotten, that the promotion of universal education is the first, the support of the Plan of Tuition, which they consider as the most effective instrument for that great purpose, only the second object of your union; and that local circumstances necessarily produce small shades of difference ininstitutions, which are actuated by the same spirit of unconfined benevolence.

Your Committee have, consistently with these

sentiments, always been anxious to attend to every information relative to new improvements in the important art of Teaching, and ready to adopt, whatever has been shown by experience to be a real improvement on the method hitherto practised.— They seize this opportunity of publicly expressing their grateful acknowledgement for all communications they have received on that important subject; but they must also add, that they consider it as a highly important duty, incumbent both on themselves, and on every Committee charged with the superintendence of a school, to guard against frequent changes, or such as have not yet been sufficiently examined. It appears, from advices received during the past year, that several schools have been much disorganized by the hasty adoption of such alterations, or by the introduction of Schoolmasters, who were but imperfectly acquainted with the true spirit, or insufficiently practised in the application of the British System. The preference, given in the appointment of Schoolmasters to persons who had possessed only a very short experience and practice, over those who had been regularly trained for their profession, has thus, in more than one instance, been productive of very considerable injury *.

^{*}The Committee have, on various occasions, sent the youths trained in the establishment to restore such Schools to regular order and discipline, and, they are happy to say, with great success.

To facilitate a correct knowledge and application of the British System both at home and abroad, your Committee have caused a Manual to be published, descriptive of the progress of instruction according to this method in all its stages, and illustrated by plates and samples of needlework. For much and valuable assistance in the arrangement of this publication they are indebted to Mr. Martin, from Bourdeaux, and to Mr. Pickton, the Superintendent of the Borough Road School, whose services they with great pleasure and gratitude acknowledge.

Your Committee trust, that from this account of their proceedings, it will appear, that they are not insensible of the importance of the charge committed to their care; that, though still struggling against many difficulties, arising from the very limited state of their Funds, they have been anxious to neglect none of the means of doing good placed within their reach.

The Committee must not close this Report on their operations at home, without giving some account of the progress that has been made in the erection of a New House and School-rooms for the Training Establishment, and Model Schools, in the Borough Road, noticed in the last Report. Encouraged by the support already experienced in their endeavours to raise the sum requisite for that purpose, and indeed almost compelled by the urgent necessity of the undertaking, they have not

only entered into an agreement with the Committee of City Lands, respecting a plot of ground, but also contracted for the erection of the necessary buildings, and can with satisfaction state, that they confidently hope, the new Schools will be completed and opened for the reception of children, previous to the Anniversary of this Society in May next.—Your Committee trust, that they will then also be enabled to announce the completion of the Invested Subscription Fund, without which their efforts must remain crippled, and the progress of the great cause they are called upon to advocate and promote, impeded. £1,400 only, are still required, in order to free this Institution from the embarrassments, under which it has laboured since its first establishment; the united efforts of a few public-spirited individuals would enable it, to act with such increased energy as the great object it has in view demands. But to doubt, would in this instance betray a want of acquaintance with the British Public; and to fear, would almost be criminal.-Engaged in the discharge of an unequivocal duty, and encouraged by past experience, your Committee will persevere. Uniting zeal with discretion, confidence with prudence, and-pleading the cause of humanity, the cause of religion, the cause of God, before Britons and Christians-they will not, they cannot be disappointed.

Proceeding now to the Foreign operations of the Society, your Committee consider the detailed account of them as peculiarly belonging to the Report to be given at the Anniversary Meeting in May; but they think it their duty, to cast on them a rapid glance, and not to withhold from this Meeting the satisfactory information, that the efforts of this Society begin to be more duly appreciated, as they become more generally known; and that the zeal for the promotion of the Education of the Poor, seems in general to be much on the increase. The Treasurer of your Society witnessed, on a journey through a part of the continent during the last summer, the most evident proofs of this desire to render the benefits of Education universal. Every information respecting the operations of this Society was received with the greatest avidity, and the Manual published by your Committee considered as a highly valuable acquisition. Translations of this work are either already published, or about to be published, in several of the continental languages.

From various parts of Europe the inquiries respecting the British System, as well as the testimonies in its favour, have become more frequent; and if your Committee had possessed the means of affording some pecuniary aid, for the first establishment of schools on that system, particularly for the erection of school-rooms, they can have no doubt, but that they should now have had the satisfaction of reporting the success of such Institutions, in several populous places of the Continent, where the neglected state of the rising generation renders them highly needful.

The hope which your Committee ventured to

express in the last Report, concerning the preservation and progress of popular education in FRANCE, and the influence of the introduction of the British System, has been realised to its fullest extent. At the period, when the last Report which your Committee have received from that country was printed, Seventy-eight Schools had been' formed on the new plan, while many others were in progress. It has been ingeniously and very successfully adapted to village schools, as well as to the grammar schools of the towns; and, under the express sanction of the Royal Commission for public instruction, has overcome in a great degree the obstacles which ignorance and prejudice had put into the way of its progress. The Committee of Paris have also directed their attention to the establishment of girls schools, and schools of industry, on the same plan: of the former, four have already been opened in Paris. That Committee have expressed in a letter to your Committee, their warmest wish for the prosperity of your Society, and their desire of co-operating with you in the accomplishment of the same object; the sincerity of which they prove by a regular communication of their Reports and other publications. Your Treasurer, from what he saw and heard while in France, bears testimony to the diligence and ardour of the Committee of Paris, who meet regularly twice in every month, and at every meeting receive numerous applications for Masters from all parts of the country.

Already do you peaceably and amicably cultivate the same ground with the Society in France; for one of the teachers instructed in the schools at Paris has been sent out, under the sanction of the French government and at their expense, to establish schools on the British System in Senegal. "If this mission succeeds," says the French Report, "who can foresee the important advantages likely to result from the instruction and civilization of Africa?" See Appendix A.

Several interesting extracts from the French Report will be given in the Appendix B; as well as an account of Mr. Frossard's labours for the cause of education in Switzerland. From these, as well as from numerous other communications, it appears, that even in those parts of that country, where the education of the people has long been very zealously attended to, the introduction of the British System is hailed as a most powerful instrument to facilitate the proper instruction of all classes of society; and Lausanne and Geneva, as well as several other places in Switzerland, already possess schools, from which the advantages, which it affords, are likely to be extended to many others.

The Emperor Alexander, during his stay in this country, paid peculiar attention to the state of education, and the new systems adopted. His Imperial Majesty had conversation with some gentlemen on the British System, and acknowledged its importance. While at Paris, His Ma-

jesty directed two Russian officers to acquire a competent knowledge of the system; and they attended for that purpose, at the Central school there.

The Emperor has, in fulfilment of this important design, authorized Monsieur de Strandman (a gentleman formerly attached to the Russian embassy at London, and now united to the Russian embassy in Switzerland, whose object is to investigate the state of elementary education, and agricultural improvements,) to take the necessary measures for introducing the new mode of teaching in his native country.

Four youths lately arrived in London (whose names are Alexander Abadovsky, Charles Svenske, Matthew Tymayoft, and Theodore Busse:) they were selected from the Institution for training Schoolmasters at St. Petersburgh: they are under the immediate care of M. Strandman, and are at present studying the British System at the Borough Road; and are afterwards also to study the Madras plan. Thus these youths will be qualified to make a proper estimate of the comparative value of the two systems, and become the medium of communicating the most extensive blessings to a very large proportion of the globe. Your Committee observe with great satisfaction, that in the selection of these youths, -two of whom are of the Greek church, and two of the Lutheran,-the design is founded on that liberal principle, which it is the glory of the British and Foreign School Society to have acted upon in all its undertakings. These youths are present at this meeting, and will be able to communicate to their countrymen, the harmony and unity of our proceedings.

That most liberal and enlightened nobleman Count Romanzoff, late Chancellor of Russia, whose endeavours to promote scientific improvements have induced him to search for knowledge throughout the world, and who has fitted out a ship for that purpose, at his own expense, has expressed his intention of introducing the British System on his extensive estates in Poland *.

In Holland, where of late the efforts of government seem to have vied with those of private benevolence to improve the situation of the poor, by the establishment of schools for all, the labours of your Society have attracted considerable attention, and His Excellency the Dutch Ambassador at this Court, having considered the Borough Road School as worthy of his personal inspection and strict examination, has been pleased to express his high approbation of it.

At Hamburgh, the establishment of a School on the principles and plan adopted by this Society, has for some time been under consideration, and appears to be retarded only by the apprehension of the expense attending the first arrangements. In that city an union of benevolent persons has been formed, for the purpose of providing proper

^{*} The Spanish Monarch has also appointed an officer of an Irish regiment in the service of Spain, to acquire a thorough knowledge of the System, in order to extend its benefits to that country.

instruction for the great number of children, who, since Hamburgh suffered so great calamities in the possession of a foreign power, were totally neglected. They have already, independently of the various charitable institutions previously existing placed one thousand children in different schools, which they found already established, and suppose, that an equal number are still remaining unprovided for, for whom schools on the British System would be a great benefit. Your Committee trust, that so desirable an object will soon be accomplished.

The latest accounts respecting the Schools in America are highly satisfactory, but present nothing peculiarly worthy of notice. No addition of any importance seems to have taken place.

The last Report gave an account of an application for Schoolmasters from the government of Hayti. A young man fully competent to discharge the duties required, has since that time been sent out by your Committee to that important station, and another is waiting for an opportunity to follow him. At the next General Meeting your Committee hope to be able to communicate a satisfactory account of the commencement of their labours. From another part of St. Domingo, now under the presidency of Petion, a request has also been received for some persons to be sent out fully qualified to establish schools upon the British System; but the Committee have not yet had it in their power to comply with it.

In thus contemplating the fruits of their labours during the last six months, and the progress of the cause, your Committee find much cause for gratitude and joy. They may indulge the hope, that they have not been useless instruments in the hands of a gracious Providence, while they consider the cause of the education of the poor as fast advancing, and the beneficial influence of your Society as rapidly extending itself. For this they ascribe honour to no human effort, but to God, and to the intrinsic excellence of the work in which they are engaged. They can need no further encouragement, but that which arises from their past experience, not to quit the station, to which they have been called, nor shrink from any difficulty, which they may still have to encounter. Why should henceforth one single child of our country be abandoned to the power of ignorance, while the means of rescuing it are accessible? Though the temporal wants of the poor justly claim our sympathy and our aid, let us not allow these claims to diminish the attention due to the improvements of the rising generation: and while we endeavour to hand out to the hungry the bread that perisheth, let us not relax in our exertions, to open widely the way to the knowledge and enjoyment of the bread which perisheth not.

The evils of ignorance still but too often meet our eyes, they increase the sufferings inflicted by the dispensations of Providence; let us not permit them to descend to future generations; but let us conduct those, whose present and eternal interests are in so high a degree placed in our hands, to the sources, from which they may draw moderation in prosperity, and fortitude and comfort in adversity; let us teach them a wise use of the present life, and the importance of a timely preparation for that which is to come.

APPENDIX.

A. Page 14.

GENERAL REPORT on the Situation of Schools established on the Principle of Mutual Instruction, in the Departments, the Capital, and its Vicinity.—Followed by an Extract from Foreign Correspondence:—read by M. Jomard, one of the Secretaries of the Society, at the General Meeting of the 23rd of August 1816.

GENTLEMEN,

Scarcely has a year elapsed since your first Meeting, and you have already received the most gratifying returns for your efforts; namely, a union of generous exertions and honourable suffrages. Never has public benevolence been called forth to a more useful work, and never has it been manifested by so much zeal and eagerness. Every one has felt the necessity of snatching a numerous population, both in the cities and country, from the most fatal disorders, and from all the evils produced by ignorance.

Every one has felt, that, to instruct the people according to their situation, is to give them a just notion of their duty; that thereby their happiness may be increased, and that, by adding to the comforts of the poor, the rich will lose nothing. happier times they would have thankfully received such a discovery as Mutual Instruction, which must in France save to the state and to families an annual expense of more than thirty millions of francs. But how much more precious is it now, since misfortunes so recent and so great have given rise to every sort of sacrifice! The Administration, the depositary of the resources and of the cares of the public, has highly appreciated so great a benefit. How many efforts have for a long time been tried, to extend Elementary Instruction to all classes: but it has always been found necessary to abandon it, as an impracticable scheme, in which the enormous expense of forty millions of francs a year was not the greatest obstacle to surmount.

In order to establish schools in every part of the country and throughout all France, no fewer than 50,000 masters would have been wanted upon the old system,—and how could they have been instructed and prepared for the work?—Again, the common mode of education, if it had been even possible to have established it generally, would have required the children to have been 4 or 5 years in the Schools;—and how could it be hoped that the sons of labourers and artisans could be spared by their parents for such a period? The riches of the poor consist in their children:—Could we without inhumanity take away from them a support and an assistance so indispensable? It belonged then to the magistrates—the true supporters of the unfortunate—to receive with earnestness the beneficent plan of a popular education; to cultivate and foster it as a sure and efficacious remedy for evils so long deplored.

It is chiefly, Gentlemen, owing to the zeal of your correspondents, who have awakened the attention of private individuals and public functionaries, that a happy direction has been given

to this important work.

How much firmness must have been required to remove obstacles, a hundred times more difficult to overcome in the departments than in the capital, not to speak of the apathy and indifference that the country-people have shown for a long time to the progress of Education! Whatever difficulties you may have met with here in the execution of your enterprise, you have not had to conquer this passive resistance, this force of indolence: you will then render thanks to those, who have surmounted them with success. Let us hasten to signalize those, who first contributed to the introduction of the method of mutual instruction into the provinces. Their example will inflame the zeal of other correspondents. Let us proclaim the names of the cities that first received it, or that solicit it with ardour:each of the new establishments will soon have taken deep root; their branches, numerous and full of sap, will rise on every side, and by degrees this tree of Benevolence will cover all France with its fruits.

SCHOOLS IN ACTIVITY.

TOWNS OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

Doubs.—It is to one of your most zealous members, M. Girod de Novilars, and to your correspondent M. Girod de Chantrans, that we are indebted for the progress of the System in the department of Doubs. It belonged to Franche-Comté, which formerly possessed schools on an analogous principle, to be the first to adopt the improved method. For this purpose a Society

for Elementary Instruction has been formed at Besancon, since last February. Many schools are already in activity. The Prefect has taken the System under his protection. A decree of this magistrate approves the propagation of it throughout the department. He has been one of the first subscribers: in short, he has ordered the Mayor of Besançon to give every assistance to the new Establishments. The first Established School already presents results, which astonish those who are unacquainted with the System. The former Teachers, especially, do not cease to admire the order and attention which reign in the classes. They are astonished at the rapidity of the progress. The effects of the measures, which we owe to the knowledge and benevolent zeal of the chief magistrate of Doubs, are already felt throughout the country. Prejudices are so effectually dissipated, that personal interest has yielded to evidence; and the System has been established without difficulty in the Elementary Schools of the parishes of Besançon.

PAS-DE-CALAIS.—Arras is the second city which has imitated the example of the capital. An Association, at which the chief magistrate of the Pas-de-Calais has consented to preside, has been formed in imitation of this; and from the produce of voluntary subscriptions, a School has been formed, which in the short space of two months has produced the most astonishing results. Three hundred pupils, instructed by a professor who is your disciple, and to whose talents praise is due, edify the inhabitants by their progress and conduct. Three hundred pupils will be assembled as soon as a place large enough can be obtained. The Mayor of Arras joins with the Prefect of Pas-de Calais

for the purpose of founding another School gratis.

You have not forgotten, gentlemen, the account which you received half a year since, of the wretched state of public Instruction in this part of Picardy, where scarcely 30,000 chil-

dren attended the former schools, out of 100,000.

Can any one doubt that there will be a change in the aspect of this province in a short time? and that at our next General Meeting, instead of an account of mere attempts, there will be announced to you a total revolution in the condition of a population, hitherto so much neglected in point of Instruction?

SEINE-ET-MARNE.—This department has been one of the first to adopt the System. It is the Prefect, who, by his suffrage and by a zeal very worthy of praise, chiefly contributed to this result. Under his care, a School serving as a Model for the whole department has been formed at Melun; yesterday it was opened with 100 scholars, in presence of the Prefect, and under the direction of a Master from our School. They are proposing to found another at Tournans. All the other places seem disposed

to follow the example of the chief town of the department; and we are informed that M. le Duc de Praslin is about to found one at his own expense.

Seine-et Oise.—A School for eighty young girls has been established at Villeneuve le Roi, under the care of the respectable Superior of the congregation of St. Joseph, whose pure zeal and

modesty prohibit every kind of praise.

MARNE.—A proprietor of extensive manufactories has just founded a School at Bresmes, near Sainte Ménéhould, in his establishments. His example is already followed by the inhabitants of the town; in which, under the care of the President of the tribunal, and one of the most zealous members of the Society of Paris, a School for 200 boys will soon be opened. This member intends also to form one at his own expense. He has studied the System with the greatest attention, and has set out with all the models and necessary means to hasten the enterprise.

CHARENTE INFE'RIBURE.—No one doubts the utility of the method in the Schools for workmen. It is especially in Schools for seamen, and in those for miners, engineers, and artillerymen, that in due time the effects will be most useful and extensive. Already the navy at Rochefort is hastening to form a School. They are instructing 20 pupils, the room and furniture are preparing, tables and models have been sent, and a Master is on the point of setting out. When the School shall have obtained the success which we expect, and which is infallible, we flatter ourselves that it may serve as an example for other Schools in that city, and also for those of the department. The Society is partly indebted for this success to the zeal of its former correspondent at Rochefort, who is now in the capital hastening the preparations.

M. le Duc de Doudeauville, a peer of France, to whom you owe so much, has taken steps to determine the administration of the navy. Let us hope, that the maritime cities will soon follow this example so easy to imitate, since they have spacious places at their disposal, numerous pupils, and sufficient resources.—Such are the Schools in activity in the cities of the second and

third order.

BOROUGHS AND VILLAGES.

MARNE —Among those which are formed in the boroughs and villages, we must place in the first rank that which our honourable President, M. le Duc de Doudeauville, has founded at his own expense at Mont Mirail. It will contain 180 scholars; it already contains 100, and will soon be full. The plain

and ingenuous account that the founder himself has given of its progress, and which you will soon receive, is the best praise we

can give to the establishment and to the method.

CÔTE D'OR.—The School established by the Duke of Ragusa, at Chatillon sur Seine, continues to prosper. We have no recent news of the Establishment; but we have reason to suppose that the surrounding cantons will soon draw materials from thence to form new Schools.

Nord.—The Mines of Anzin will become the centre of the establishment of Schools in the department of the North. It is to the zeal, to the generous cares of the Mayor of Anzin, M. Regnard, and of M. Scipion Perier our colleague, that we owe the establishment of two Schools, now in activity at Fresnes under the conduct of one of our young masters. The one contains 70 boys, and the other only 20 girls. The progress has been so rapid as scarcely to be credited. There is a boy who began his letters on the 7th of last July, and on the 7th of August passed into the highest reading class. His brother, five years and a half old, has in two weeks and a half reached the 4th class. By the generous care of the proprietors of the Mines, two new Schools will soon be opened, at Anzin, and at Condé le Vieux.

Seine-et-Oise.—You will hear, gentlemen, with joy, that a manufactory, as much celebrated by the talent and virtue of its founder as by the superiority of its productions, has still further enriched itself by the establishment of a School on the new method. The worthy successors of Oberkampf, members of this Society, have founded a School at Jouy, which is now in full activity; 75 boys are already assembled there. The progress is evident, and the curate of the village takes the greatest care of it. At the time that the boys are at work in the manufactory, the girls succeed them, and by this arrangement the same room serves provisionally for both sexes. In many places economy might induce the administration to adopt this simple expedient, which presents very few inconveniences.

ALLIER.—Madame la Duchesse de Duras, who first founded a School at Paris on the model of that of the Government, has, with a zeal and constancy above her sex, founded one at Vichy for 100 boys: she has also established another at Gannat: and the care which her declining health imperiously required, has yielded to a benevolence that knows no bounds, and to a desire

to alleviate the distresses of the poor.

The Report proceeds to give a very interesting detail of Schools in preparation in the Haute Garonne, Pas-de-Calais, Morbihan, Loire, Hautes Alpes, Gironde, Ardennes, Haute Marne, Indre-et-Loire, Yonne, Var, Ain, Vienne, Haute Vienne, Ille-et-Vilaine, Bas Rhin, Meurthe, Nord, Maine-et-Loire, &c. &c.

Also that in the short space of one year, twenty-seven departments and forty-eight corporations have received or requested Masters.

NORMAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

SAINT JEAN DE BEAUVAIS.

The School established at Paris by the administration at the old college of Lisieux, and now supported by the Prefect of the Seine, deserves to be mentioned here in the first rank, for the degree of superiority to which it has reached, for the services which it has rendered in the course of one year, as a nursery for Masters and Monitors, and finally, on account of the Master, Mr. Augustus Perou. Three hundred pupils are registered. Their conduct is still more pleasing than their progress, though the latter is surprising. The school has furnished fifteen Monitors to the different Schools of Paris and the country, and without inconvenience it could furnish at present six others.

Two pupils, six years of age, have passed from the first to the seventh class in eight months, though one of them had been often absent on account of ill health. Another entered the school in the month of January last, and is now in the sirth class. Twenty pupils, who have finished their studies, are now apprenticed; and one of the last had entered the school not eleven months since, knowing absolutely nothing. The youngest pupil is four years and a half old, and the oldest is not thirteen. The discipline is excellent: we have seen that large school, in the absence of the Master, conducted with regularity and silence by a young boy. The pupils are for the most part mild, polite, engaging, and thankful. The happy influence of the System is apparent in their manner of conversing, in their strength of memory, and even in their decency of behaviour and appearance. It is above all in their conduct out of school, and when they are free from the yoke of discipline, that we admire the wonderful effects of the System. A fact that I have just learned from Mr. Perou, does the Master and pupils great credit:—As soon as it had been mentioned, that a choice was to be made among the pupils destined to receive prizes from the hand of the Prefect, all the school named with acclamation one of the two general monitors, who conducted the school with the greatest rigour and severity-rigour that the Master is sometimes obliged to soften.

A testimony which surpasses many others, is that of the celebrated *Dr. Bell*, who honoured the school with his presence last month, and who, in giving the best advice for its improvement, has expressed his approbation, and declared that there were 200

schools in England not so far advanced. Let us consider with what rapidity the schools have been filled, without injuring those previously established, and we shall no longer doubt the advantages of the System, nor the necessity of opening to the people large establishments. We must know, that scarcely 10,000 children of both sexes receive gratuitous instruction in this vast capital, and that from 15 to 20,000 poor families are in want of it for their children. Perhaps 30,000 are absolutely deprived of all primary Instruction. What a nursery of idle, and one day, no doubt, of miserable vagrants, whose first lesson will be to know the panal law! There is not a suburb or section of Paris, that does not want one or more large schools, to receive those thousands of these unfortunates.

The Report proceeds to state the most encouraging details of the success of Village Schools, and concludes with the Foreign

Correspondence.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Almost certain, gentlemen, of general success in our own country, let us pay attention now to the progress of the System abroad. That new event will be to us a powerful encouragement. Strangers of the highest distinction are come to learn it

in the principal school of Paris.

Russia.—Among the Russians, that have visited that School in great numbers, we will mention M. Kriwtzof, colonel of the guards of the Emperor of Russia, whose virtues His Majesty the-King of France has just rewarded, and who has obtained here a thorough knowledge of the System, in order to be able to introduce it himself on his own estates, where he is now gone. Sievers, the general of fortification in the service of the same sovereign, has also carried with him all the necessaries for the establishment of the System in his own country; and our tables serve now, perhaps, to teach the French language to the Serfs and peasants of the Northern countries.

Germany.—How many Germans, Belgians, Prussians, and Austrians, are come to pay a tribute of admiration to the establishment at the college of Lisieux! If the discipline of our schools did not oblige us to put limits to the curiosity (so complimentary, however, to the System) we should have seen as many foreigners as scholars, and the schools would not have

been large enough to contain the crowds of spectators.

Switzerland and Italy.—It is to Mr. Frossard, whose zeal is as modest as it is enlightened, and who shares with Mr. Martin the honour of having instituted in France the discipline of our

Schools, that we are indebted for having introduced the new practice into Switzerland. His instructions have been followed by all the distinguished persons of Geneva and its environs, with an ardour, which does equal honour to the hearers and to the Professor. From the time of his arrival in that country, unexpected successes have marked his career. The counsellor of state, Pictet de Rochemont, deserves the gratitude of the Society, for the assistance he has given to the propagation of the System at Geneva. Already the ancient School of Saint Gervais has been modified without difficulty according to the new plan, and with complete success. Other parts of Geneva will soon possess schools,—thanks to the indefatigable zeal of M. Pictet, whose daughters have themselves organized a girls school, and who are also establishing another at Lanag. Carrouge will soon have a large School.

Lausanne, and the Canton of Vaud, present a picture equally satisfactory. It will be gratifying to the Society to learn, that the school which the municipality of Lausanne has just established owes its foundation in part to the care of one of its most respectable members, General Laharpe. It is in full activity; and M. Verdeil and M. de Chavannes have distinguished them-

selves by their exertions.

Professor Frossard opened it on the 15th of July last; and in the course of three weeks the progress of the establishment surpassed the expectation of the Master and founders. At Lausanne they are unanimous in their opinion of the necessity of establishing a School for five hundred boys. At Fribourg, a respectable clergyman, the reverend father Abbé Gerard, Prefect of the French Schools, full of a commendable zeal, is organizing several schools, on the plan of mutual Instruction: he is seconded by M. de Kerentin, counsellor of state. owe much to the distinguished zeal with which one of the most learned Members of our Society propagates every where in that country the knowledge of the labours and the objects of the Society at Paris, whilst, at the same time, he applies himself to the study of the establishments of Pestalozzi and Fellenberg. He promises us the support of the most useful fellow-labourers, among the most eminent men of science that Switzerland and Italy possess. Such a subscriber as Moscati is a triumph for the Society; because we shall soon see, and we already see, the first Professors and the most learned Academicians following his example.

Mr. Martin, who first introduced the method at Paris with so much devotion and ability, is now travelling to contribute to the establishment of it in the Netherlands, Holland, Germany, and Switzerland. He accompanies Mr. Allen, the friend of the celebrated Fox, whose loss we could not too much regret, if we

had not his worthy friend to console us.

England.—We have received from England interesting accounts on the improvement of schools, particularly on the application of the System to the instruction of Adults, which will be the object of a separate Report. The account of the establishment projected in London, by Mr. Bentham, to turn the new System to the profit of the middling class of society, and apply it to the tuition of Languages, Drawing, and Sciences, is the most important information that the Society have received from England, since the last General Meeting. The method has just been introduced into the English School of Artillery, for the instruction of Mathematics: and new Greek and Latin grammars have been compiled, to serve for the study of those languages on the same principles.

Thus, gentlemen, there is now established in France a sort of depôt of perfected methods of primary Instruction. What centre could be more favourable and better situated for this commerce of philanthropy than France, which from its situation, from its language, (become almost universal,) communicates so easily,

so rapidly with the European continent?

Senegal.—You will soon be permitted, gentlemen, to carry your communications and your hopes further. Already an opportunity, as important as it is serviceable to the designs of the Society has offered itself to its zeal. Two of the King's ministers urged the establishment of a school of mutual Instruction at Senegal. I he Prefect of the Seine has embraced with earnestness so happy a circumstance. He has made choice of one of your professors, who has just set out for that destination furnished with a perfect knowledge of the System, and with tables, books, models, and instruments of every kind. If this pious mission succeeds, who can foresee the advantages that our country may obtain, in thus assisting to diffuse civilization in Africa! Let us rejoice, gentlemen, in a design which does honour to the administration, and let us congratulate ourselves for having contributed to it.

Let us, above all, congratulate ourselves for that generous emulation, which establishes at length between us and a people zealous for the destruction of ignorance—happy and peaceable rivalry! What ought henceforth to divide two nations equally enlightened, equally powerful; nations made to esteem each other, and whose union might complete the happiness of the world?

[N.B. Since reading this Report, we have learned that some benevolent persons propose to establish Schools at *Corbeil*, at *Buc*, and at *Soisy-sous-Etioles*. A School for girls will soon

be opened at Nogent-sur-Marne, and another is projected at Sevres. At Provins, and at four other places, they have manifested a disposition to open schools. The Duchess de Duras announces, that a school has just been established by one of our Secretaries at Palisse. Adding to these, that which is preparing for the environs of Saint Menehould, we count 13 establishments, besides the 65 Schools of France before mentioned. Finally, every thing is in preparation to organize several schools in the Ille-de-Bourbon.

Paris, Sep. 12th, 1816.

The Administrative Council of the Society for Elementary Instruction, to the Members of the British and Foreign School Society:—

GENTLEMEN,

which are forming.

The pleasing engagement which we have undertaken, to inform you of the progress of our Institution, is but an acknowledgement of the obliging manner in which you have communicated to us the measures so advantageously adopted by you in promoting the new System. The propagation of that System has been so rapid in France, as almost to exceed our expectations. The General Meeting was held on the 23d of August last, the detail of which you will receive from the Journal of the Society which is just gone to press; and we also present you with an abridged description. Since that Meeting, we have received information of a considerable number of new Establishments

The Royal Commission for Public Instruction having honoured the new plan with its express approbation, the majority of the Rectors of various Academies in the kingdom have already promised their hearty concurrence in seconding our efforts. His Excellency the Minister Secretary of State for the Interior Department, whose enlightened zeal is well known, has also had the goodness particularly to recommend our establishment to the Prefects of the Departments, by a circular of the 30th of August last, and has given proofs of his benevolence, equally valuable and honourable. The Counsellor of State and Prefect

of the Department of the Seine condescenced himself to distribute the prizes to the youth of fifteen schools established in his Department, and to visit them in company with a deputation from the Society.

Already the experience acquired in the newly-established Vil-

lage Schools, has proved to us that the System presents there the same advantages as in the Schools of cities.

Girls schools, which have been hitherto retarded, are in pro-

gress. Already there exist four in Paris, of which two are destined to serve as models. The plan is there applied to manual labour in a manner truly ingenious. The description of their proceedings is contained in the last number of the Journal of the Society.

We have been able to procure slates and pencils of the best quality and the lowest price. The collection of lessons is com-

pleting.

M. Frossard, whose zeal and services have merited the gratitude of the whole Society, and who is about to leave France, has undertaken to deliver to you, gentlemen, the publications descriptive of the labours of many members of the Society. We cannot better acknowledge the services of M. Frossard, in the establishment of our schools and the direction of the Normal plan, than by recommending this excellent professor to your kind attention.

At a time when we had to encounter numerous obstacles, this great plan of improvement has been developed, and has extended itself in a manner so happy and so rapid, as to call for our grateful acknowledgments for the numerous services which you have rendered us,

We have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Gentlemen,

Your most humble and obedient Servants,
RUQUEN, President.
Baron DR GERANDO, Secretary General.
G. F. CUVIER.
MALLET.
FRANCŒUR.
J. LE BŒUF, Secretary.

B. Page 14.

Report on the Establishment of Schools in Switzerland. By P. E. Frossard, of the British and Foreign School Society.

SWITZERLAND is without dispute one of the European countries in which Education is most highly regarded; not only as it respects those persons who have the means of superior instruction, but the whole body of the people. There exists in every town, however small it may be, a Charity School, where youth may receive instruction according to their circumstances. All the children from six years of age are expected to attend. If they neglect; their parents are made responsible, they pay a fine, or lose their claim to the relief which the town or parish affords. Notwithstanding that these schools are extremely numerous, yet,

as is generally the case on the old system, the progress of the pupils has been so exceedingly slow, that they were obliged to remain on the forms five or six years. Many intelligent persons had long sought for the means of rendering instruction more expeditious and more agreeable to children, but their efforts were unsuccessful. It was in this state of the schools that the British

System appeared in France.

Scarcely had it commenced its progress, when one of the most enlightened men in Switzerland, Mons. Le General Laharpe, tutor of the Emperor Alexander, sought to introduce this improvement into his own country. On a journey which he made to Switzerland, he persuaded the government of the Canton de Vaud to make trial of a system, the good effects of which he had witnessed. After having completed a course of public instruction at Paris, and having ceased to direct the School of Popincourt, I was now at liberty, and was chosen by General Laharpe to accomplish his benevolent design. On my arrival at Lausanne, I found many persons favourably disposed to the System, and many inclined to oppose it as an innovation. My first care was to remove the erroneous opinions which had been entertained on the subject, and to endeavour, if possible, to unite the two parties. In consequence of the explanations I had given, the members of the Grand Council and the Lower united; and being determined to neglect nothing which could promote the first effort, they not only provided for the necessary expenses, but gave me the power of selecting children of good capacity from the schools already established. In a few days the School commenced. The situation could not have been better chosen. The building was formerly a church, in which the first sermon was preached in favour of the Reformation in Switzerland. was prepared for 90 or 100 youths. On the first day of my engagement I was incommoded by the number of visitors brought thither by the interest they felt in the object, or by curiosity. In order to execute my duties, I was obliged to lock the doors, that no person might be admitted but the Members of Government. Four weeks sufficed to form the Monitors, when I opened the School to all the children, who had been waiting with impatience for the moment of their admission. In a fortnight they were accustomed to the order of the school, and went through their exercises with surprising regularity. The school being founded, it was opened for the inspection of the Public. But to avoid confusion it was necessary to divide them into parties. The first was reserved for the Protestant clergy. The Pastors, to the number of eight or nine, at the head of whom was Mons. the Dean Currata, came to enjoy the fruit of their zeal. The number of children was complete, and all observed the strictest order. I

then commenced an explanation of the plan of instruction; after which I practised the System with the children themselves; and concluded by a brief description of the happy results, which would be produced by propagating the System in its economy, the progress of the children, and the advancement of religion. It would be difficult to describe the pleasure expressed by the audience: they duly appreciated the different points of this excellent mode of instruction, and looked forward with eagerness for the time when it should be generally adopted in Switzerland. M. the Dean Currata rose to express his satisfaction. knowledged the care which I had taken in the establishment of the School; and addressing himself to the children, encouraged them to continue their exertions, and redouble their zeal; to avail themselves of the benefits which had been provided for them with the most gratifying liberality. To testify in the most pointed manner the pleasure which he felt, he engaged them to come in rotation to him, and gave a reward to each, and double to the Monitors,—the reward was equal to 1 d. each.

The second Meeting was reserved for the Members of the Academic Council. After explaining the System, these gentlemen congratulated me on the rapid success of my labours, and engaged me to continue in the work which I had com-

menced.

The third Meeting was appointed for the Municipality, at the head of whom the Synd's appeared. At the appointed time the Members arrived: not satisfied with a mere explanation of the System, they examined it themselves. They directed the children to write, and interrogated them on the different points which had been taught them, and appeared highly satisfied with this first attempt to establish the plan.

From this moment,—reflecting on the advantage of a greater extension of the System,—they proposed that a School for 500 children, which might become a model for all the Schools in Lausanne, should be planned and built with all possible dispatch.

The following day the heads of Government and the Members of Council visited the School: they were also extremely satisfied with the deportment of the children, with the progress which they had made in so short a time; and confirmed that which had been proposed, respecting the necessity of establishing a School for 500 children. M. Mourod the Landeman, and General Laharpe, addressed me, to express the pleasure which they experienced in seeing the attainment of their wishes. My object being accomplished, I surrendered the School into the hands of a Master whom I had instructed, and engaged him to exert himself zealously to sustain an establishment, which, as a Model; would afford instruction to all the Masters in the

Swiss cantons. Before leaving Lausanne, I presented to the Government a plan of a School for 500 children, which they ac-

cepted, and committed to the Council.

While the System was received with avidity in Lausanne, Schools were also established in the canton of Geneva. persons interested therein applied to me for information, and fearing lest they might be disappointed in their attempts to establish the plan, I considered it more important to attend personally. I then made a journey to Geneva, where I found many persons extremely zealous; among others Mons. Pictet de Rochemont, whose life is consecrated benevolence :- a School had arisen under his patronage in the village of Lancey, situated half a league from Geneva. On the other side, at Carouge (another village about the same distance) a School for boys and one also for girls were in activity; and at Fribourg a School for boys was established by M. L'Abbé Girard. At Geneva itself a School for about 120 boys was under the care of a Master who had been trained at Paris, to whom I gave several hints tending to rectify the principal defects of his school, which I left in a prosperous state.

BATH AND BATH-FORUM FREE SCHOOL.

THE patronage of this new system of popular Instruction has extended from the throne to the cottage. But the blessing has not terminated here at home. While the wise and good in our own country have united hand and heart in this salutary work, many of the surrounding nations have caught the generous spirit, and are at this moment making a like provision for the moral amelioration of that large proportion of their subjects, who have been hitherto regarded only "as the beasts that perish," and given up to the combined and baneful influence of ignorance and vice. Following her bright example, they have tacitly acknowledged Britain as equally paramount in acts of mercy as in deeds of arms; and, perhaps, it may not be too much to say, that, when the recollection of her late illustrious achievements shall be lost in the events of future ages, and the mist of time shall have dimmed the splendour of her recent triumphs, a durable record of her glory will still be read, in that general moral improvement, which she shall have been the means of pouring over the civilised world, by taking the lead among the nations of Europe,

in Popular Education.

To patronize and encourage an Institution of this description, the Committee of the Bath and Bath-forum Free School take the liberty of soliciting a generous and enlightened public, bearing in their hands testimonials of its utility and success, which they confidently hope will be considered as furnishing a sufficient ground for such an appeal on behalf of their establishment, and a strong argument for the continuance of favour from its friends and supporters. They present to the public a list of 150 boys, who during the preceding year have received instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, sufficient for all the purposes of their humble station in life; have been taught their duty to God and man, daily exercised in the Holy Scriptures, and accustomed to a proper observance of the Sabbath, and a regular attendance on public worship. And to this they add another list of 295 male children of the poor of Bath and its vicinity, who are now deriving similar advantages in the same place of gratuitous education. They remind the public, that, though their comprehensive plan admits the offspring of poor parents of all religious denominations, to the benefit of the Bath and Bath-forum Free School, yet, that a sacred regard is paid to the interests of the *Church of England*; that a large majority

of the Committee consists of gentlemen brought up, belonging, and ardently attached to the Establishment.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL.

Boys admitted during the last year - 208	
Boys left School last year 150	
In the School at this time 295	
Total admitted since the commencement 9	17
State of their Learning.	
First Class, who write in sand	10
Second do. who write on slates & read words of 2 letters	25
	23
Fourth do. 4 letters	19
Fifth do. read Watts's Hymns & Select Lessons, 5 letters	9
Sixth do. read the Testament, write words of 2 syllables	63
	66-
Eighth do. best readers, write in Copy Books	80
In the School 2	95

In Arithmetic.

Boys learning	the Tables	-		-	22
Ditto	Addition, simpl	e and c	ompoi	and	25
Ditto —— S	Subtraction	-	-	-	35
	Multiplication		-	-	17
Ditto ——			-	-	13
Ditto —		-	-	-	6
Ditto ——]	Rule of Three		-	-	4

In Arithmetic 122

BATH, GIRLS FREE SCHOOL.

The spirit with which the gratuitous education of the male children of the poor of Bath and its vicinity had been undertaken, and the success with which it had been prosecuted both at the Bath National School, and in that on the combined plans of Dr. Bell and Mr. Lancaster, induced some benevolent characters in this city, in the summer of 1814, to make arrangements for the establishment of a similar Institution, for the benefit of the female children of our local poor. A committee of

ladies was accordingly formed, and a plan digested for effecting this desirable purpose: a house in Grove-street was engaged to receive the children; a mistress appointed for their education; and in November 1814 the School was opened to the objects

of the charity

In this little establishment, founded on the British System of Education, (which, while it facilitates the business of the Instructor, awakens attention and activity in the children,) the girls are taught spelling, reading and writing, together with knitting and plain needle-work, and are consequently qualified to procure a decent and creditable provision for themselves when they arrive at womanhood, as well as to serve the community in the most essential way, by filling, honestly and usefully, those offices in society which must be supplied by females in their humble walks in life.

This little establishment (as will appear from the annexed Schedule) has already received 152 poor girls under its roof, working as it were in secret, unnoticed and almost unknown: it has afforded, at a small expense, religious and useful Instruction to the female offspring of nearly 100 poor families in Bath and its vicinity, and been the happy instrument, under Providence, of introducing into bovels and cottages (in many of which the duties to God and man were hitherto unknown or disregarded) some ideas of piety, some knowledge of religious and moral obligation, and some perception of the comforts of decency and order.

-					
	SCI	IEDULE			
Girls admitted	I	-		-	152
Girls left Scho	col	-	-	-	7S
				-	
	Number	now in	the Sc	hool	74
				-	
In the T	First Class	-		-	8
	econd Cla	53	-	-	9
	Third Class	5	-	-	10
	Fourth Clas	55	-	-	9
	Tifth Class		-	Ç20	11
	Sixth Class			-	g
	Sevenih Cl	ass	-	-	10
	Elghth Cla	95	-	_	S

N.B. The children are admitted by recommendation of Subserfeers.

BELFAST.

On Saturday, June 15th, the highly gratifying spectacle of distributing the premiums and certificates, to about two hundred and fifty children, was exhibited in the School-house. A number of respectable persons were present on this occasion. But when we consider the nature of this interesting Seminary, and the perfection to which it has attained, we were mortified to find that the attendance of amiable females, who gave the cheering aid of their countenance to this triumph of the School, was greater than that of the other inhabitants who had meritoriously exerted themselves for its establishment. We do not, however, withhold our praise from them for their early anxieties for its welfare—well are they entitled to it—but having carefully watched and cherished it in its cradle, we did expect they would also have cheered it in its maturity.

The most fastidious in religious matters, of whatever profession, could here find no objection. All must have been gratified to observe, that the Bible and Testament were the principal premiums, which, with other valuable and entertaining books, seemed to be received by the animated little candidates

with a peculiar glow of satisfaction.

After the distribution of the premiums, the Rev. Mr. Carr addressed the auditory in an impressive and affecting style.—We regret that our limits prevent us from doing justice to his sen-

timents.

He began by stating with what pleasure he was called upon to display the progress and utility of an Institution, which proclaims the happy invention and pure philanthropy of its founder, and the patriotic spirit of its triends and supporters; which afforded, he said, a spectacle, which every lover of his country, all who are interested in the public good, must rejoice in, and anticipate from it numerous blessings; for the happiness and comfort of nations, as well as the prosperity of individuals, advance or decrease in proportion as the seeds of knowledge are disseminated, and the boundaries of truth and error are defined and understood. And it was a most pleasing consideration to reflect, that the public spirit of this empire has encouraged every means of ripening the affections and expanding the minds of the unlettered poor.

Amidst the varied devices, he well observed, which the philanthropist and patriot have used, to extend more widely the blessings of useful learning, and render the lower classes of society the sons of virtue and intelligence, the System, whose happyeffects were that day witnessed, stands pre-eminent. Here we may behold, accomplished by the ingenuity and desultory

efforts of a single individual, what the combined energies hitherto of senates could not fully effect—Here might be seen the beauty and utility of an Institution which calls the idle wanderer from the street, reclaims the vicious and profane from practices dangerous to society, and upraises on the ruins of ignorance and depravity, the imperishable edifice of moral and literary greatness. Here the inhabitant of the lowly cot, the offspring of the destitute and the wretched—the expected inheritors of their parents' misery—was introduced into the seats of improvement. and made to participate of the sweets of intellectual lore. Here the little quarieller, the puny combatant, the youthful profiigate-drawn from scenes of strife and impiety-are made to feel the beauty of virtue, the comforts of peace, and the dignity of mental worth.

A remarkable feature in the history of this establishment is, the good order and discipline which it uniformly promotes.— The superiority of this Institution was also manifested even in its rewards and punishments. Whilst every incitement is offered to the ingenious and the diligent-every stimulus afforded to the emulous and aspiring—there is, on the other hand, every thing adduced that can shame the slovenly, reprove the idle, check the mischievous, and awe the profane.

BERMONDSEY.

Your Committee are highly gratified at the success of this particular School, where as many instances of quick improvement in manners and acquirement have occurred, as in any Schools which have attempted the instruction of the lower orders of society. Children who have been turned out of many Schools in the neighbourhood, as ungovernable and untractable, have been here, so attached by kind treatment and the simplicity and regularity of the System, as to become the most regular and attentive of our scholars, and most conspicuous for the rapidity of their attainments.

It is not a small satisfaction to have a class of boys, of seven years old and under, who can read the Scriptures, so as to be understood by the most unlearned. In writing and arithmetic the specimens submitted to your inspection will sufficiently prove the excellence of the plan, and we may add, the diligence with which it is applied. On the subject of religious instruction, your Committee have the satisfaction to state, that every child is required to attend a place of divine worship on the Sunday; those whose parents wish them to go to Church, are taught

the Catechism, and taken to St. John's church by the Master; the others mostly go to some Sunday School in the neighbourhood, the Master having a check on their regular attendance.

BIRMINGHAM. Page 4.

Extract of a Letter from the Schoolmaster.

I SHALL with pleasure employ all the means in my power to improve and practise it (the British System), not only where I am usually employed, but I will recommend its adoption in Sunday Schools, Day Schools, and Evening Schools, whenever and

wherever I have opportunity.

With the view of making the Institution I attend more generally useful, an Evening School has been established. I have organized a Day School at Dudley upon the same System, which is managed by my eldest son, a youth about fifteen years of age. I have introduced a part of the System into a Sunday School consisting of 400 boys, and I have instructed several persons for Masters during the last year.

An Evening School was opened March 18th, 1816. We had about 250 boys for some time, but during the summer evenings we have not been so well attended: however, as the winter months are most favourable to an Evening School, we

begin now to anticipate a full attendance.

The promoters of this Evening School have a great end in view—that of inducing the people to make an exertion in their own behalf, for they well know that thus only can any real service be rendered to them. They charge three-pence per week for each boy to be paid in advance, that those who are the objects of the Institution may become anxious to avail themselves fully of its advantages, as a matter of right and not of charity. It is scarcely possible to confer any real favour on those persons who would attend an Evening School, if we were to impose it upon them in the form of Charity: and I have no hesitation in asserting, that the Committee of the Birmingham Lancasterian Institution will confer a far more substantial and lasting benefit upon the objects of their solicitude, by placing a cheap School within their reach, than by opening to them the doors of a Charity School. With this Evening School we shall be able to keep the boys in view, after they leave the Day School, till their habits become fixed, and thus prevent them from losing the instruction they have received. It requires no argument to prove the advantages of the plan: and by this means, in addition to what has been already done, we may reasonably hope soon to remove that ignorance, which is one of the worst accompaniments of poverty.

Thus will the moral character of the poor be improved; and there will be some chance of bettering their condition, by cor-

recting depraved and irregular babits.

No material alteration has taken place with respect to the plan of teaching: but in consequence of some parents being prejudiced against writing upon slates, and proposing to provide books if the boys might be permitted to write in them, the Committee agreed that those who wrote in books should pay for them. The boys also pay for slate pencils.

This plan was adopted, not so much to save money as to save time, and to prevent Monitors from being kept after the others to prepare them; but it is found much more productive than was expected. The tickets given to the boys for best reading, best writing, &c. are taken for pencils. Cash and tickets received for pencils and cases in the two last years, amounted to 241.

[This correspondent has also invented an Arithmetical machine, for performing the principal rules, simple and compound, which is highly creditable to his ingenuity, and may frequently be used

with advantage.]

BOSTON.

It is with no small degree of satisfaction, that the Committee this day meet the Subscribers to this Institution, to report to them and to the public the progress that has been made in the business committed to their charge on the 27th of April 1815, when it was unanimously resolved that a School should be opened for the education of the children of the poor on the principles

of the British and Foreign School Society.

To promote the views of the Subscribers, and commence the work of Education as early as possible, the Committee were accommodated with two spacious rooms, free of expense, by B. Claypon, esq. who, to further promote the object in view, purchased a piece of ground in an eligible situation, that the Committee might erect such a building as would be most suitable for the intended School; and by the 9th of October the same was completed and fitted up in two distinct apartments, and opened for the reception of children of both sexes.

By the liberal aid of the Patron, the President, Vice-presidents, and by other donations, the greater part of the expense attending the building and fitting up of the School has been provided for, and further considerable contributions have been made at different chapels in Boston, where the respective ministers, with that liberality which characterizes the true Christian, preached sermons in recommendation of the Charity: and as a further aid, the sum of 50l. 18s. 6d. was raised by a concert and ball:—by all which the Committee have been able to

reduce the debt incurred, after having provided for the salaries of the Master and Mistress of the School, to the sum of 1181.

9s. $6\frac{3}{4}d$.

The Committee are happy to state, that the mild discipline of the School is not found incompatible with improvement; corporeal punishment is dispensed with. The children are generally anxious to get to School, and playing truant is very rare. They are stimulated to exertion by rewards, and by precedence being given to those that excel. Many parents have related with what pride their little ones exhibit, on their return from School, their ability to spell, to read, and to write. Specimens of the children's writing will be exhibited for inspection; and when it is seen what progress has been made, the Committee trust the Subscribers will agree with them, that there is great reason to be satisfied with the attention and exertion of Mr. Bosworth and Miss Beilby, under whose tuition the same has been accomplished.

Since the opening of the new School-room, 326 boys have been admitted:—of this number fifteen have gone to service or apprenticeship, eight have left the town, nineteen have been withdrawn by their parents, and two have been expelled the

School. Remain in the School, 282.

All the boys now in the School (except those in the first class) are in the daily habit of writing on slates, and of those there are fifty who write twice a week upon paper. Of the total number of boys, on their admission 284 were unable to write, the greater part of whom can now write a good legible hand. In the arithmetical classes the number is 156.

The number of girls which have been admitted is 270: of this number fifteen have been withdrawn by their parents; fourteen have left the town; thirty-seven have gone to service; and two have been expelled the School for bad behaviour. Re-

main in the School, 202.

Of the total number, on their admission 180 were unable to write. Thirty now write in books, and forty-nine are in arithmetic.

Attendance at places of worship.

Attendance at places	or worshi	p.
	Boys.	Girls.
Church -	- 154	102
General Baptist Chapel	96	64
Methodist Sunday School	31	28
Calvinist Chapel -	0	8
Unitarian Chapel -	1	0
•		
*Tot	al 282	202

The Committee trust the arrangements by them made during the past year, will be found in conformity with that universal liberality on which the basis of the School was founded.

A religious observance of the Sabbath has been strictly enjoined; but in no instance has any influence been exercised to over-rule the inclinations of parents, as to the place of worship their children should attend, the Committee being strongly impressed with a belief, that it is better to promote practical Christianity, than to disseminate peculiar tenets, and that it would be to war against nature, to inculcate on an infant, a belief in that which is denied by its parent. Of the children that attend the Established Church, a considerable number are regularly taught the Cat echism by the officiating clergy.

BRISTOL AUXILIARY SOCIETY.

At the commencement of the present year, a general review was taken of the past history and present situation of the Boys School. It was found that since the period of its first opening, in the year 1808, nearly two thousand children had been admitted, of which number two hundred and fifty were then in regular attendance. It appeared also that the system of education was daily becoming more and more efficient, and that the improvement of the pupils was proportionably accelerated.

A late review of the Girls School presented a result equally satisfactory. This Institution is of far more recent date; it has not existed two years and a half. About five hundred girls, however, have already partaken of its benefits; and its utility is circumscribed by nothing but its pecuniary resources, which are at present scarcely adequate to its support. Its situation, indeed, would have been alarming, had it not been for the munificence of an anonymous individual, who sent one hundred pounds to the Committee, in order to discharge some of its more pressing incumbrances. These incumbrances were principally caused by the expenses of fitting up the School; and as they will not recur, it is not doubted that the liberality of the public will, in every futur year, keep pace with the current expenses.

It will not have been forgotten, that at the last Meeting of the Society, which took place in August last, a most interesting account was delivered by the Treasurer of the Parent Society of the various embarrassments and difficulties which had obstructed its progress in its outset, and at one period had even threatened its complete extinction. Providence,

however, did not permit the occurrence of an event, which would have "shed disastrous twilight" not only over our country, but over the other nations which have been stimulated by our example. It raised up men whose hearts were prompt almost beyond their means, to cope with these difficulties. It will be remembered, that a few individuals assumed the whole responsibility of a debt of many thousands, and were contented to trust for repayment to the justice and liberality of their countrymen. The distinguished, the pre-eminent part that was taken in this season of difficulty, by Mr. Joseph Fox, Secretary of the Society, cannot have been forgotten. In the first instance, it appears that he assumed the responsibility of the burthen alone, although he soon met with others who were anxious to divide with him this hallowed charge. Of him, alas! we may now speak, without fear of wounding his own modesty, or of being accused by others of flattery. To the voice of human applause his ear is now closed; but an assembled world will one day be witnesses of the applause and the recompense which he will receive from the Master whom he served, and who has graciously promised that he will consider as done to himself, whatever is done for the least or the humblest of his brethren.

The friends of humanity may, however, console themselves with the reflection that "no good effort is lost:" the seed may, for a time, lie buried in the earth; but the Fountain of Being has imparted to it a principle of vitality which will develop itself in due season, although it be for the present veiled from the sight, and although the wintry storm may retard its progress to maturity. The enemies of human improvement might as well hope that "by setting their foot upon the globe they might stop its diurnal motion," as that they should ultimately be able to resist the progress of moral light and moral truth. We are engaged in a holy cause. Some of the most important interests of man, both for this world and for futurity, are in our apprehension connected with its success; and whilst, on these grounds, we call for the united exertions of their species, we commit the final result, with humble confidence, to the great Ruler and

Disposer of events.

CAMBERWELL. Page 4.

Your Committee have felt the importance of steadfastly adhering to the first principle of the Society. This has appeared to them a plain and an imperious duty; all peculiarity of religious opinion has been excluded, and the simple object has been the communication of knowledge. The children have been taught to read the Scriptnres: to this an ability to write and cypher has been added. The lessons have been taken from the Bible alone: these it is hoped will be impressed upon the memory and the conscience, and that future years will demonstrate that the young man has learnt to cleanse his way, by taking heed

thereto according to God's word.

But whilst your Committee have avoided imposing any form of worship or peculiarity of religious opinion, they have judged that their object would not be accomplished, without urging upon the children an observance of all the precepts of Christianity; and considering Sabbath-breaking and neglect of public worship as the fruitful source of every crime, they have felt it incumbent on them, especially in the neighbourhood of Bowyer-lane, to use their utmost exertions to prevent such an evil. At the first establishment of the School, they found in the majority of instances, that the children were in the habit of neglecting the duties of the Sabbath; and that this was to be traced to the depraved habits of the parents, who, in many cases, used their example and authority to engage their children in secular concerns on that sacred day: they have had therefore great difficulty in enforcing one of the primary rules of the Institution, viz. "That upon any boy's admission into the School, his parents or relations shall engage to send him every Sunday to the place of worship which he or they may prefer, on pain of exclusion, unless such reason for occasional absence be given, as shall be satisfactory to the Committee." A strict investigation on this subject has been undertaken by one of the Members of your Committee, in rotation, every Monday morning; and they are happy to say, that, in consequence of renewed applications to the parents, and remonstrances with the children, the evil is nearly, if not quite, anni-Had your School done no more than prevent this crime, and instil into the minds of the young a reverence for "the Lord's Day," your Committee conceive that their labours and your expense had been by no means in vain.

Your Committee have had great pleasure in witnessing the rapid progress of the children, in those humble but important and primary parts of knowledge which it is the design of your

Institution to communicate. There are some, whose extraordinary improvement has demonstrated, that superior mental capacity is often the possession of the poor. They have been seen quickly passing from the lowest to the highest classes, filling, as they proceeded, the office of Monitors to those who were once beyond them, aiding the Master by their exertions, and stimulating the scholars by their example; thus benefiting others, while they are themselves preparing (did Providence present the opportunity) for filling very useful stations in society. your Committee, lest they should be charged with over-rating the benefits of a System to which they are increasingly attached, will content themselves with earnestly inviting your minute inspection of its actual operations; and are persuaded that, independently of a few instances of more than ordinary progress, the state of the whole School will prove the benefit resulting from a scheme which ensures constant attention, and produces habitual emulation. But they cannot forbear to notice, what is indeed an obvious fact, that the order and cleanliness to which the children were at first obliged to submit as rules, are now formed into habits, and it may be confidently hoped, that your Society will realize the truth of an inspired encouragement to such exertions: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

The state of your School at present, is as follows:

In the School at the last General Meeting

Admitted since

Dismissed in consequence of change of residence, as apprentices, or to be engaged in some manual occupation

Total

313

The whole number of children who have been received into

your Institution since its establishment, is 384.

It is peculiarly gratifying to state, that of 234 girls, who have been received into the School, one only has been expelled for improper conduct, after repeated though unavailing admonition.

The Ladies gladly avail themselves of this opportunity, to express their entire satisfaction with the conduct and ability of their Teacher

Your Committee beg further to mention, that in consequence of extreme poverty, many parents who are desirous of sending their children to School, find it impossible to provide them with decent clothing, which has given rise to the idea of forming a Fund for the purpose of giving some necessary articles, as a reward for good conduct. A small weekly subscription has ac-

cordingly been commenced, and they confidently hope this renewed appeal to the benevolence of their neighbours, will insure the means of increasing usefulness to the rising generation; that the naked may be clothed, the unenlightened instructed, and (through the Divine blessing accompanying these feeble but upright endeavours to improve the condition of this interesting part of the community,) many daughters may be availingly taught to do virtuously, the benefit of moral and religious education be abundantly diffused, and a rich source of consolation opened to families who may have heretofore lived without the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and unacquainted with how much it is their interest, as well as duty, to regulate their lives by the precepts of the Gospel.

CARLISLE. Page 4.

Your Committee have pleasure in reporting, that the School is still conducted, on the part of the Master, to their satisfaction. There is a manifest improvement in all the classes, in each of which there have been several instances of improvement during

the course of the last year.

There is one object, which the Committee always regard as of prime importance in the regulations of the School—the attendance of the Scholars at their respective places of Divine worship on the Sabbath day. Hence they have been particularly prompt and diligent in the adoption of every means likely to secure this important end. They have succeeded in a great degree among the higher classes; but there are still many defaulters among the lower classes, and which can only be remedied by a hearty co-operation of the parents themselves. promote this co-operation, the Committee have personal y waited on the parents of the defaulters, and explained to them their duties as well as the duties of their children. If they have not succeeded to the extent of their wishes, still they have the satisfaction to feel that some good has been produced —It may be observed that in the distribution of rewards, the good behaviour of the children in this respect, has been regarded as the principal ground of merit. They attend at the following places of public worship.

St Cuthbert's Church - - 82
Annettwell-street Chapel - - 27
Methodist Chapel - - 29
Roman Catholic Chapel - 17

Your Committee have also to state, or rather to remind you, that your Treasurer, authorized by a General Meeting, remitted

out of the Funds of the Institution the sum of "Ten pounds" as a donation to the British and Foreign School Society, towards assisting them in the pecuniary embarrassments under which they have so long laboured*.

CHARLBURY. Page 4.

The first object which engaged your Committee's attention, immediately after their appointment, was to procure a place which might at a small expense be fitted up for a School-room. In this, however, being repeatedly disappointed, it became the unanimous opinion of your Committee, that the best plan to be adopted would be, to erect on a part of the "Playing Close" an entire new building for the purpose, the trustees of that land having granted leave so to do; and as the Funds of the Society were inadequate to the defraying of the whole expense of such an undertaking, it was resolved to endeavour to raise a loan for the purpose, to the amount of 200l, and hat the S bscribers thereto should receive legal interest for their respective shares, and annually so much of the principal as the state of the Funds may admit; the buildings, in the mean time, to stand secured to such Subscribers, until the whole of their respective shares be paid off.

Your Committee have now the satisfaction to state, that nearly the whole amount of the loan has been subscribed, on the conditions specified; and it is with a confident degree of anticipation, arising from a firm conviction of the goodness and importance of the cause in which they with you are engaged, that they most earnestly call upon you for such increased and liberal exertions as may shortly relieve the Institution from its

present debt, and thereby place it on a firm foundation.

Owing to several unavoidable and unforeseen occurrences, the building was not begun until the 11th of May, on which day the first stone of the Charlbury British School-room was laid, in the presence of several of your Committee. The buildings were nearly completed by the beginning of September, and your Committee were anxious then to have opened the School, having previously endeavoured to obtain a suitable Governess, and who they expected would have arrived at that time; but owing to unavoidable disappointments, they were compelled to delay so desirable a measure until the 30th of October, on which day the School was opened; and your Committee feel reconciled thereto, from believing that no material inconvenience has been sustained thereby.

^{*} The example set by the Committee and that of Godalming, who annually remit 21. 2s. to the Parent Society, would, if generally adopted by School Committees, prove a valuable aid to the support of foreign objects.

CROYDON.

It is with a degree of confidence that your Committee thus call your attention to the general effects of Education on the poor, being persuaded that there marks are, in degree, applicable to the situation of the poor in this neighbourhood! Whoever will take a retrospective view of the subject, and compare the state of morality among them a few years back with its present state, will doubtless be convinced of the improvement. The Sabbath, which was formerly spent by the lower classes of the people in various kinds of disorderly dissipation, is now comparatively quiet, and devoted to the duties of religion. dren no longer loiter away their time in the streets in idleness, or consume it in gambling and other diversions which corrupt their tender minds, but employ it at home, in reading to their parents those Scriptures, which, for want of the advantages of education, many of them are unable to read for themselves. Since such, then, are the effects of education, are we not loudly called upon to exert ourselves in supporting a cause, in which not only the good of the poor, but of society in general, is so nuch concerned?

And It is far from the intention of your Committee to draw comparisons between this and other Institutions, which, though conducted on different plans, have the same object in view. We sincerely wish prosperity to every Society which has for its object the religious and moral education of the poor. The benefits of your Institution are confined to no particular religious persuasion. The principles it inculcates are the unsophisticated doctrines of the Gospel. The only religious observance which it enforces, and to which great attention has been paid; is the regular attendance of the children at that place of worship to which their parents may be attached.

The total number of boys who have been admitted to 226

The number who have received Education at the School, and have now left it, is - 103

Leaving the number now in the School 123

DERBY.

THE Committee have reason to regret the negligence and inattention of their late Master; and the consequences were exhibited during the early part of the year, in the irregularity and disorder of the School itself. Other circumstances occurred in his conduct to render his removal necessary, and the Committee were so fortunate as to engage the present Master (Mr. J. Goodrick) to supply his place. Under the active superintendance of Mr. Goodrick the School was quickly re-organized, and has continued to improve in order and discipline since he undertook its management. The increased progress of the children has corresponded to his exertions, and the establishment is at present in a state which affords great satisfaction to the Committee.

The number of boys now in the School is 13 more than was announced in the Report of last year, and the punctuality of attendance is very greatly improved. Since the 1st of April 1815, 166 boys have been admitted, and 153 have left the School: of these, 27 are now at work; 24 have been removed to other Schools (generally to those where a more extensive scheme of education is professed); 4 have left on account of illness; 2 from the distance having been found too great; 2 have been expelled; and 81 were taken away previous to the dismissal of the late Master, and chiefly, it is believed by the Committee, in consequence of his negligence and the want of improvement in the children. The number of scholars now on the Admission book is 247: of these, 120 attend the Sunday Schools and the worship of the Established Church; the others frequent the Sunday Schools and the worship of the Dissenting Meeting Houses.

DITCHLING.

IT will be recollected, that at our last Annual Meeting Mr. Robert Chatfield benevolently and generously offered to erect a School-room for girls, if gentlemen and ladies would raise by subscription a sufficient sum to defray the expenses of female education. A subscription for this laudable and important purpose was immediately commenced, which gave Mr. Chatfield encouragement to proceed in his charitable and honourable purpose. It is however to be particularly remarked, that the subscription then entered into, was far short of what would be adequate for the perfection of the plan, though Mr. Chatfield took upon himself the entire expense of erecting the building, and fitting it up for the purpose. As, however, the ploughman ploughs in hope; so hope was necessary in this business:—it was thought a reasonable expectation that subscriptions would increase, and it was determined to proceed and lay the foundation of the Ditchling Female School. The work was immediately set about, and in a few months it was erected. When it was about to be opened, Mr. Greene was authorized to procure from the Borough School, slates, books, and other necessary articles; which being done, the Ditchling School-room for the education of girls in reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing, marking and knitting, (built and fitted up at the sole expense of Robert Chatfield, esq.) was opened for the said purpose on Monday, January the 22nd, 1816, which we hope will be the means of a great and an everlasting benefit.

The Committee met and opened the Girls School by the reception of twenty-five female scholars; and since that time, at different periods, they have admitted twenty-seven. The number of girls in the School at present is fifty-three; the number of boys in the Boys School is ninety-four; so that there are now in the Schools 147 children of Ditchling and its neighbourhood, who through the means of your charitable bounty are receiving

the valuable benefits of education.

One hundred and twelve boys have been admitted since the commencement of the School, January 30th, 1815. Seventeen have left for various employments, one is dead, and ninety-four remain in the School.

PROGRESS.

The number of boys now capable of reading the

Scriptures, (fifty-nine of whom could not read when they entered the School)	73
In the 5th or Easy reading Class -	18
In the 3d or Three-letter Class	3
-	
Total	94
The number of boys who write on paper	51
The number of boys in arithmetic	84 7
The number of boys learning their combination of	.00
figures	23

Fifty-three girls have been admitted since the commencement of the School, January the 22nd, 1816. They have been making equal progress with that of the boys. Many, who can now read, write, sew, mark and knit, were incapable of doing either when they first entered the School.

EAGLE STREET, LONDON.

A School having been established in the neighbourhood, exclusively for *chimney-sweeps*, about twenty boys of that description, who had received the first and most difficult part of their education in this School, left and went to the National School.

The masters, however, of some of the boys have acknowledged with thankfulness the instruction they had received; saying, they were sorry to have removed them, but were forced so to do or lose their customers, the principal of whom were the institutors of that School, and insisted on the children being sent there. Some of the masters have since expressed their decided attachment and preference to this Society, by requesting that their boys might be received back again; which has been accordingly done.

The Committee have also received pleasing letters from the parents of some of the children who have left the School, acknowledging with thankfulness the education their children had received. These things are mentioned as testimonies to the good that is doing, and as stimulating to greater exertions:—much good has already been done, but much remains yet to be

accomplished.

FARNHAM FEMALE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY.

During the past year, 194 have been entered upon the School books; of whom 35 have left the School, and there now remain 159,—a number considerably exceeding that of the last year, and evincing the progressive prosperity of the Institution, and the advancement of its claims to general attention. Already the School has extended the means of instruction, in three years, to 240 children; and the increased regularity of their attendance and desire of improvement in the past year, evince most clearly that the general advantages of education

are more duly appreciated.

It has fallen to their lot, in their visits to the abodes of poverty, to be cheered and encouraged by the unsolicited declaration of many, of the pleasure they have derived from listening to the Sacred Scriptures read by their children, after the labour of the day is over-a circumstance which cannot but be attended by beneficial moral effects on their character, and which demonstrates at once the utility of general education, as well as the advantages arising from the distribution of the inspired volume, in ameliorating the condition of the present generation of mankind, and, à fortiori, in improving the character of the succeeding. In general, the Bibles distributed appear to have been perused with attention: - and in one instance, a little girl has ornamented the first blank leaf of her Bible, with the concise petition of David, "Lord, open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law"-a petition most admirably addressed by the tender judgement of infancy to that gracious Being, " from whom all holy desires, all good counsel, and all just works do proceed." On being asked where she

had found this prayer, she immediately pointed to the verse which contains it, in the 119th Psalm. Other pleasing effects might be adduced; but these only are specified with a view of proving that a grand moral machine is in motion and that it requires only an attention to the source of it power and the detail of its operation. to ensure its unlimited success. It is a fact, that many of the children of the Female School of Industry are now engaged in the pleasing employment of teaching their parents to read-that several have already communicated to them such a degree of common knowledge, as to enable them to peruse with facility the Holy Scriptures, and that many others are extremely anxious to imitate their example! It is impossible to estimate all the good which will result from this most simple Adult Institution, and which has already received the sanction of experience. Thus the treasures of knowledge will be rendered accessible even to the present generation; and that knowledge will not fail to diffuse moral light and truth, and awaken the heart to the beauty of piety, and the value of moral worth and virtue.

It is an interesting fact connected with the instruction of the poor, and which has been related to your Committee on unquestioned authority, that the general deportment of the children of the district is improved, that they are more intelligent, more civilised, more respectful to their superiors, and more moral and principled in their conduct. This pleasing truth, too, is attested by the agriculturists of the neighbourhood, who assert, that, notwithstanding the continuance of the occasional incursions of youthful depredators, yet that this evil has been sensibly diminished since the establishment of the Schools, and that they inferior to what they offences of children, in a degree greatly inferior to what they formerly did; a fact which proves the beneficial effects resulting from the employment and the general education of the labouring classes.

The concerns of this Institution shall be directed by the fol-

lowing regulations: viz.

1. The Mistress shall belong invariably to the Established Church*.

2. The books to be used in the School, shall be such only as are consistent with the doctrines of the Establishment, and which do not intertere with the prejudices of different denominations of Christians: such as the Bible, the Testament, Dr. Watts's Divine Songs, (as published by the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge) and Dr. Watts's Catechisms for Children.

3. No other books or documents may be used in the School,

^{*} This decided preference to one religious sect is the only alloy to that pure satisfaction which this interesting report is calculated to afford to every liberal mind.

unless they shall have been openly produced at a General Meeting of Subscribers, and unanimously approved at the next fol-

lowing General Meeting.

4. All the children shal attend Divine Service twice on every Sunday; viz: those of the Established Church to be conducted to Church by the Mistress; and those who are Dissenters, at their several places of worship, attended by a Monitor. And if any of the children shall, without sufficient excuse, tail to comply with this regulation, it shall be a discretionary ground of expulsion from the School.

GODALMING.

AMID all the various institutions in this country for alleviating the miseries and increasing the comforts of our fellowmen, the number and excellence of which are alike so much to the honour and renown of Britons, none surely can rank higher in the scale of utility than those Institutions which extend the blessings and benefits of education to all around them: for, as it has justly been remarked in another place on a similar occasion, their "operation is not temporary, but permanent;—not affording the precarious assistance of an hour or a day, but operating upon the whole career of life:" and, it may be added, not upon this life only, but also upon that which is to come: for every fact, both ancient and modern, which bears on the subject, proves that the most vicious of mankind have generally

been the most ignorant.

With these and similar facts in view, who can doubt the policy of universal education? But should any doubt remain, your Committee appeal for its final dispersion to the proceedings of the last Anniversary of the British and Foreign School Society, held at the London Tavern. This was a day of high satisfaction to all the supporters of unrestricted education, to all those who delight in the reflection that their scheme embraces within its sphere every individual in need of instruction. Yet your Committee hesitate not to say, that they consider the supporters of the restricted Schools as their valuable coadjutors; and they trust the effect of their united labours will be more and more clearly testified, by the increasing good order of that class of people for whose benefit these Institutions are designed: for certain your Committee are, that the evils of society, arising from the moral depravity of the people, are not to be cured by penal statutes, but by the gradually unfolding effects of universal education. Give moral elevation to the character, remove gross ignorance, and substitute in its place that cultivation of the mind, under which every man will feel with increased force those convictions that would deter him from evil;—accomplish these things, and we shall soon observe the happy effects that will result, for the power of resisting evil will be greatly increased, while its attacks will be deprived of their most destructive force.

The Committee of the Godalming Subscription Girls School feel much pleasure in delivering to the Subscribers the Third Annual Report of their proceedings; as they have had the satisfaction of observing continued good order and improvement in the children under their care.

If the subject of general education were not of infinite importance and universal extent, it would be a theme already exhausted: but the more your Committee consider its influence on the rising generation, the more real satisfaction they feel in anticipating the beneficial effects it will produce on general society; for among the most abject and destitute of our present poor, few instances will be found in which the causes have not arisen from total ignorance and want of early habits of good order, which the present plan of education is particularly intended to produce.

HALIFAX.

Table,—showing the Number of Children under Education in the Schools each Year, and their Religious Denominations.

1813-14 1814-15 1815-16 Religious Denominations.				
1813-14	1814-15	1815-10		
75	73	70 .	of the Established Church. and add	
113	67	62	Independent Congregation	
188	138	125	Methodist Society.	
63	48	38	Salem Methodist Society. 77	
3 6	27	19	— Unitarian Chapel.	
27	23	22	Baptist Chapels.	
502	376	336	Total 1214 Children.	

It appears from this Table, that the Schools correspond with their name and design,—that they are open to the children of the poor of all religious denominations, without distinction, preference, or disqualification on account of the particular religious views of their parents. And it will be seen by this, and by the preceding Reports, that the great and leading object of the Institution is to teach the poor to read the Scriptures. These we all equally regard as the only standard of religious truth. And

though, perhaps, strictly speaking, each denomination, as such, is interested in these Schools, in proportion to the number of poor scholars belonging to that denomination, yet there is a higher and a common interest to which we all aspire. We know who

hath said, "Ye have the poor always with you."

It is our common object in these Schools, to enable the children of the poor to read the records of salvation in their mother tongne. This great design we keep before us with singleness of view; and to accomplish it we unite with cordial and active co-operation, desirous of experiencing and exemplifying that "as we have many members in one body, so we being many are one body in Christ."

HERTFORD.

The instant our intentions were known (to form a Girls School), all classes of the inhabitants became interested. The poor in general hailed the Institution with tears of grateful affection. They vied with each other in eager desire to procure the admission of their children, and seemed to pour forth the fulness of their hearts in invocations of blessings on the

heads of those who formed the School.

They each paid with great readiness one shilling entrance towards fitting up the School-room, and agreed to pay one penny per week afterwards towards the general expenses. The surplus of our funds (if any) to be given them as rewards in articles of clothing. The extremely cheerful manner in which they paid their money, demonstrates the existence of that proper feeling in the minds of the parents, which we hope will secure their co-operation with us; and while by these small contributions the funds are essentially benefited, the idea of paying for the education of their children generates a feeling of independence in them, which on many accounts it seems desirable to cultivate. With the conduct of the poor we have ample reason to be satisfied. One cannot help regretting that they cannot be permitted to follow their good desires without control. The opening of our Boys School procured the establishment of one in connexion with the National Society. I had calculated on a similar result to our efforts in the present case: the correctness of this expectation is about to be verified. Our School commenced on the 9th of October, with 100 Scholars. The number has gradually increased to 120. The progress the children have already made, in about five weeks, is highly flattering to our hopes, and no less, so to our super-intendants. The great utility of Miss Springman's services is every day apparent, and we shall avail ourselves of your permission to retain her to complete the month.

BOYS SCHOOL.

The number admitted into the School since its formation, is nearly 300. Of these, upwards of fifty have attained the object of the School in its full extent, and are employed in procuring their own maintenance. A considerable number have been deprived of the benefits of the Institution to the degree we desired, by premature removal, occasioned solely by the indigence of their parents, which compelled them to sacrifice the improvement of their children's minds for the pecuniary advantage of their labour. Some have removed, and a few have been expelled for irregular attendance. From some of their parents I have received most flattering acknowledgments of the great advantages their children have received.

An additional School has been opened in a neighbouring town, from whence some of our scholars came. The average number in course of attendance is ninety-three. The majority of them belong to Sunday Schools: this we endeavour to encourage, as it secures their attendance at the house of God, and the remainder are peremptorily required to attend at some place of worship on the Sabbath. I am happy to say that the absentees from Church or Chapel seldom exceed two or three in a month. They are examined on this subject every Monday morning, and such as are capable are required to repeat the texts of the sermons they have heard. Some very gratifying instances of great attainment in moral improvement in the character of the boys have occurred, by which the vast importance of these Institutions is clearly demonstrated.

There are several who have made great attainments in writing and arithmetic, whereby they are fitted for respectable situations in business. One lad now in the School, whose age is 13, has in the last fourteen months gone through Walkingham's Arithmetic, from the beginning as far as the extraction of the roots of all powers. He has attended half-days only, being obliged to work hard all the rest of his time. Moreover, a very considerable superiority of behaviour has often been noticed, over

those who are destitute of instruction.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

THE Committee are persuaded, that the approved System upon which the Society's Schools have been established, the constant and vigilant inspection to which they are subjected, and the evident benefits which they have produced on the minds and habits of the children, have powerfully tended to the enlargement

of the Society's operations in Ireland. Designs so benevolent, and results so pleasing and important, must be impressive and efficacious; and accordingly they have been found to stimulate many respectable individuals in our sister country, to co-operate with the Hibernian Society in the formation of Schools for educating the children of the poor, under a well-grounded hope of meliorating the condition of the lower classes of society, and of producing the most beneficial and important effects on the po-

litical and moral interests of their country.

The present state of the Schools is reported to the Committee, to be such as to admit of the most favourable representation being made of them. A correspondent of the Society writes thus:—" In a School at S—— there are 117 children: their parents in general are so poor that the education of their children would have been neglected, and so depraved, that their example might have had a fatal influence on their offspring. These children are almost literally new creatures:—never did I witness such a change. Filth has given place to cleanliness; forwardness the most indelicate, to a meekness and modesty the most engaging. Their proficiency in the Scriptures is very pleasing; and from the answers they give, and thes triking change in their whole deportment, it may be hoped that God has written his truth on their heart."

From the Schools the word of God extends an enlightening and purifying influence to the cottages, and penetrates the strong holds of ignorance and superstition. The New Testament is the school book for the children, their parents are pleased at hearing it read to them; it speaks for itself; their attention is engaged, they soon perceive that it is not that pernicious thing were taught to believe it was; prejudice subsides, and admiration increases to an affectionate attachment and sincere reverence for the word of God; which, but for the Schools, they probably would never have heard of. And so sensible of the value of the Schools to their children have some parents been, that, when distance and the severity of the season would have prevented the children from travelling to the Schools, their parents have actually brought them thereto on their backs.

It has been mentioned, that the parents of the children who are taught in the Schools of the Society have, by a happy reaction of knowledge and influence, derived considerable and important benefits. The Committee have also the pleasure to state, that the greatest attention is paid to Adults who live in the neighbourhood of the Schools, and who can be induced to learn to read, either in English or Irish, after the working hours of the day and on Sundays; that in the course of one quarter's attendance and instruction, many of them are able to read the

New Testament intelligibly, and that these become Irish readers

in the different villages where they reside.

It is indeed truly pleasing, that none of the districts in which our Schools have been established, have been at all disturbed; and were the disturbances to extend to the countries wherein the Schools are placed, though they might more or less prevail, as the number of adults hitherto benefited bears but a small proportion to the population of those districts; yet I think that the evils would by no means have such a general spread in them, as in districts less favoured with Scriptural light and instruction. But it is where the rising generation, the material of the Schools, come into action, that the salutary effects of the operations of the Hibernian Society will be fully developed: the change may then

be expected to be most important and glorious.

It only remains for the Committee to mention two points, which they feel it to be an impressive duty to bring to the consideration of this meeting, for the purpose of showing the immediate necessity of great exertions to replenish the Funds of this Institution. The first is, the enlarged operations of the Society during the last year, which have produced an increase of above 7,000 pupils in the Schools under its patronage, and which now present an aggregate of upwards of 19,000 scholars of both sexes, who are partaking the privileges of education and the blessings of Scriptural instruction at the expense of this Institu-The other point is, that applications for opening additional Schools, and facilities for extending this important and benevolent system to other countries, than those which have hitherto been benefited by it, are continually presented to the views and wishes of the Committee, but which they cannot venture to prosecute until the pecuniary concerns of the Society shall receive such a necessary and appropriate increase.

HORNCASTLE. Page 5.

DURING the past year the system of needle-work, as practised at the Parent Institution, has been introduced into the a chool by a zealous female friend, in which she has been assisted by several other Ladies. The Committee have viewed the exertions of these ladies with pleasure; they feel happy in stating, that, under their direction, the children have made the greatest proficiency: and they feel it a duty incumbent upon them to return their warmest acknowledgements for this assistance, which has so materially contributed to the prosperity of the School.

Shortly after the last Annual Meeting, it was with considerable regret that the Committee received from Mr. Bosworth,

the master of the School, a resignation of his situation, in consequence of a more lucrative one offering. As the conduct of Mr. Bosworth, during his superintendance of the School, had been distinguished by the utmost zeal and activity, it was a source of grief to the Committee that the funds of the Institution would not admit of their retaining him in his situation, and rewarding him according to his merits.

They feel gratified in being enabled to state, that Mr. Wm. Umpelby, to whose care the management of the School is now committed, has distinguished himself by exertions which have

placed the School in a high state of discipline.

The Committee have also during the last year had to contend with those pecuniary difficulties which have so materially affected this part of the country, and which have been felt by all ranks and descriptions of people. The Committee have however found a powerful auxiliary in a penny-per-week Society, which they have established at Horncastle on the recommendation of the Parent Institution. The town is divided into four departments, to each of which a collector is appointed, who every Monday calls on the Subscribers for their contribution, and which is paid to the Treasurer once a month. The collectors state, that the contributions are paid with cheerfulness, and that the subscribers testify a considerable share of interest in the welfare of the Institution.

It is pleasing to the Committee to state, that the British System of Education has been introduced into four Sunday Schools during the past year; viz. at Burgh in the Marsh, Raithby, Tointon near Spilsby, and West Keal; from these Schools, as well as the seventeen mentioned in the two former Reports, favourable accounts continue to be received.

IPSWICH.

THE Committee feel much satisfaction in being able to congratulate the subscribers and the public at large, on the progressive advances the Institution has made, towards accomplishing the important objects for which it was formed. The ancient prejudices, though at one time strong and unbending, against the general education of the lower classes of the community, have, happily, in a very great measure been dissipated, and appear to be gradually dying away altogether; and it is confidently to be hoped, that society will reap the most solid advantages from the efforts that have been made to inform the understandings and improve the morals of the poorer orders of the people.

IRISH FREE SCHOOLS, St. GILES'S.

THESE Schools, which have already educated several hundred children of both sexes, have at this time 140 boys and 130 girls,

-in the whole, 270 scholars under tuition.

The Schools continue to be conducted in the same manner which has been uniformly pursued since their establishment; without interference with the religious principles of the parents who send their children, and the Holy Scriptures alone

are taught in the reading lessons.

In the Girls School great improvement has taken place. Several ladies of the highest respectability have kindly undertaken the inspection of the Female School, and the instruction of the girls in knitting and plain work. They have been most active and benevolent in their attention to these poor children; and it may be easily conceived how great an advantage has been derived to the School, not only from the highly useful instruction afforded them, but from the increased order, regularity, and energy, which the superintendance thus given has produced.

The Report of the Committee states a handsome donation of no less a sum than 1251. from a well-known benevolent lady. And in concluding the Report, the following two facts therein

stated, will be read with the greatest satisfaction.

The first is the establishment of a School on Saffron-hill, on precisely similar principles, for the instruction of poor Irish children, who reside in great numbers in that neighbourhood. It was opened on the 17th of July last, and now contains 117 children, with every prospect, if adequately supported, of great

and increasing usefulness.

The other is the permission granted to Mr. Finigan, the schoolmaster, to make use of the school room during last winter, in the evenings, for the purpose of instructing adults in reading the Scriptures. That undertaking, in which he was engaged by several benevolent individuals, has been attended with the happiest effects: upwards of 100 persons have been admitted into this Adult School since its commencement on the 1st of January 1816, most of them taken from the lowest class of Irish labourers. Of these about 70, some of them above 47 years of age, have been taught to read the Word of Life. The eagerness of these poor people for instruction, the pleasure they take in reading the Word of God, and the very observable improvement in their morals, of which some very remarkable and highly interesting instances have occurred, afford a hope that a foundation is laid for producing extensive and important good.

KINGSLAND.

While the Committee rejoiced in the effects produced upon the children under training, and contemplated the benefits which would result to future generations, they saw with regret that the narrow limits of their School-room excluded a great number of children, who, from the impossibility of gaining admission, were growing up in ignorance, and peculiarly exposed to the allurements of vice,—they at length determined to appeal to the benevolence of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood, for the means of erecting a larger building upon ground already in their possession; and they are happy to state, that a personal application to the inhabitants by several Members of the Committee has been completely successful, and that a School-room capable of accommodating between two and three hundred boys is now erected, and they trust will long remain a monument of the liberality and philanthropy of this district.

By the establishment of a weekly Penny Society amongst the ladies in the neighbourhood, they have been enabled to provide the day-school girls with bonnets, frocks, cloaks, tippets, aprons, gloves, shoes and stockings, which they purpose to provide annually, without any assistance from the sums subscribed

for the general support of the Schools.

In adopting a plan unfettered by narrow prejudice, and applicable to the whole mass of the community, the Committee feel confident that they shall receive the countenance and the support of the friends to religious and civil liberty. And they trust that the time is not far distant, when the inhabitants of this district may have the satisfaction to reflect, that they have done all in their power to check the torrent of vice and crime among the poorer classes of the community, and have turned their feet into the path which leads to virtue and to peace.

The progress of the children of both sexes, and their great improvement in all respects, have induced many of their parents and other men in the neighbourhood to wish for similar advantages; and the Committee have granted the use of the Poys School-room to some gentlemen of the neighbourhood, who, with the assistance of the Master, have undertaken to conduct an Adult School during the winter evenings. The result has been in the highest degree gratifying; and the managers of this School have the pleasure of reflecting that they have brought into habits of regularity and decorum, some, whose names for opposite courses had been long well known through the village.

LIMERICK.

The Trustees of the late widow Banks's charitable bequest, having, in the course of a late visit among all the charitable Institutions in Limerick, inspected the Lancasterian School, were so struck with the advantages it is calculated to produce to the rising generation of the male sex, and so desirous of extending those advantages to the female sex, that they voluntarily and immediately resolved to contribute the sum of one hundred pounds towards establishing a Female School on the same plan, whenever the Committee shall determine on building a School-room for this purpose.

The Committee have ground suitable for such a building contiguous to the Boys School, yet sufficiently detached to prevent the associating together of boys and girls. They are anxiously desirous to be able to commence the building early in the spring; and they only wait for the assistance of their fellow citizens to

enable them.

"I have inspected the School for Boys established in this city on the *Lancasterian Plan*, and have sincere pleasure in offering my unqualified approbation of the system there pursued.

"When I behold between four and five hundred poor children snatched from filth, idleness, and vice, and in the short space of two months, brought to a sense of cleanliness, regularity, and moral conduct, I must entertain well-founded hopes, that this infant Institution will meet with the support of the wise and the good, because it is happily calculated to produce the best benefits to man; namely, 'Religion, Morality, and Social Order.'

" CHARLES, LIMERICE, Bishop.

" Jan. 5th, 1815."

"I have visited the School established in the city of Limerick' for the Education of Boys on the Lancasterian Plan, and perfectly coincide with the Right Rev. Dr. Warburton in his judicious and charitable remarks on its great utility, particularly in the city of Limerick, where the population is very great, but extremely poor. I find every attention paid to cleanliness, discipline, and good morals, which must be productive of the greatest advantages to the children and to society in general. I am confident it will meet with the approbation and support of all who wish for general happiness and social order.

"CHARLES TUSHY, V. C. &c. Roman Catholic Bishop. "Jan. 11th, 1815."

MONTROSE.

On the 7th July, 1813, David White, Esq. merchant, Montrose, from a wish to communicate and diffuse useful and religious knowledge among the children of the poor, did, by a Deed of Mortification, dispose and for ever invest in the funds of the Town Council and Kirk Session of Montrose, equally, the sum of six hundred pounds sterling, on an Annuity of 6 per cent, for the special purpose of founding and endowing a School, for the education of the children of such poor inhabitants in the town and parish of Montrose, as were unable to afford the expenses of education themselves. The School to be always called and described by the name and title of David White's Free School.

The annuity paid by the Magistrates and Kirk Session, to be employed solely in paying the salary of the Teacher of the said

School.

The Provost and two eldest Bailies of the burgh, and the first and second Minister and Kirk Treasurer of the parish of Montrose, their successors in office, with the addition of Mr. White himself during his own life, to be perpetual managers and. directors of the School. The expenses of building and fitting up a School-room, with a house for the Teacher, &c. to be defrayed by the subscriptions of such persons as might be willing to contribute to the Institution. The Magistracy and Town Council granted a piece of ground belonging to the community for the erection of the necessary buildings. Last summer the buildings were erected and the School-room fitted up: a Teacher nominated, and, by the advice of Mr. Lancaster, sent to the Royal Jubilee School, Newcastle, for instruction in the British System of Education. The erection of the buildings cost above 8001. leaving a considerable burden on the Institution, which it is hoped a benevolent public, and particularly the friends of the British System, will soon relieve. The School was opened on the 1st January 1816: -264 children have since been admitted.

On Thursday, the 22d August, David White's Free-school was examined in presence of the Trustees and of several ladies and gentlemen, by the following members of the Presbytery of Brechin: Mr. Molison, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Burns, Mr. Brewster, and Mr. Foote. The examinators have much pleasure in expressing publicly their entire satisfaction with the mode in which the education of the youth is conducted, the regularity with which the whole system proceeds, the promptitude of the respective Monitors, the respectable progress of the children in the different classes, in reading, writing, in arithmetic, and in

the knowledge of the Assembly's Catechism, and the promising appearance of the whole, doing much credit to themselves, and to the assiduity and ability of their Teacher, Mr. Sime.

SABBATH EVENING SCHOOL.

attend this est

All the children attend on Sabbath evening for religious instruction. They are examined on the texts and sermons they have heard through the day; on the Assembly's Catechism; and repeat select portions of Scripture, appointed to be learned the preceding week. Their attendance on Sabbath evening is in general regular, and they repeat their lessons accurately. The sixth and seventh classes generally repeat twelve and fourteen verses, besides questions; and the eighth class, twenty-four and thirty verses, and have been known to learn two and three chapters in a week: this class is making rapid progress in the knowledge of religious truths; they give correct answers to many questions in the system of divinity, and prove them by pertinent passages of Scripture.

We have also the satisfaction to state, that the moral improvement of the children is also evident: not a few of them were addicted to the odious vice of swearing; but now no oaths are heard among them, when absent from school; and if any new scholar transgress the known laws of the school in this matter, his companions immediately report him to the Teacher by writing his crime on their slates, instead of pronouncing it. Their attendance on public worship, at the places their parents

attend, is on the whole regular.

NEWBURY. Page 5.

The plan, which formed a part of the original System on the establishment of the Girls School, of receiving a small weekly payment from each child, has been upon due deliberation adopted by the Committee for the Boys School; and they are happy in adding, that the payment of a penny a week, instead of lessening the number of scholars, has rather improved the discipline and the attendance at School; and they are persuaded that nothing will perpetuate this and all similar Institutions, so much as rendering them dependant only on the reciprocal benefits arising from the relations of master and scholar.

NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE moral effects produced on the minds of the children who attend this School are strikingly apparent. It is pleasing to observe the spirit of harmony that prevails among them. Their manners are decorous and becoming; the vile habits of lying, swearing, &c. unto which too many of them were previously addicted, are now most materially checked, if not entirely eradicated. They often manifest a pleasing attachment to the word of God and other good books which have been given them These they read to their parents at home, accomas rewards. panied frequently with very suitable remarks. The excellent selection of practical Scripture lessons which they daily read, and their constant attendance at the different places of worship, where those lessons are explained and enforced, are admirably calculated to produce these happy effects. Such, indeed, is the general conviction of the excellence of the Institution, that several of the most respectable inhabitants of Newport have sent their children to receive the first rudiments of their education in this School.

NORTH STREET, CITY ROAD.

THE Committee for this Institution avail themselves of this opportunity to invite extended assistance. The want of necessary education and of religious knowledge, prevalent in a district principally peopled by the poor, had been long deplored. Convinced of the importance of such instruction, they were desirous that the existing evils should disappear. Ward, parochial, and Sunday Schools were established. They have afforded relief, but they have presented a remedy only partial and inadequate. The expense incident to an establishment sufficiently enlarged and comprehensive, under the old system of education, prevented its formation, and persons entertaining different religious opinions were unwilling to unite in an Institution, in which either religious instruction must be neglected, or catechisms and tenets might be taught, which they might conscientiously disapprove.

These insuperable difficulties have been obviated by the system of education which has been recently promulgated and improved. By this plan, one master can now direct one thousand children—those children become the agents in their own instruction—the expense of tuition is reduced to six shillings per annum for every child—an improvement so rapid is ensured, that two years will suffice to teach any child reading, writing, and

the elements of arithmetic—and the children so educated acquire habits of arrangement, subordination, and industry, which operate most usefully on their future lives. With this system, religious information is combined. The children acquire a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, from which alone their lessons are selected, and become habituated to that attendance on public worship which is expressly required. But although the Scriptures are taught and public worship is enjoined, no exclusive preference is given to any religious opinions—and the parents of the infant objects of the charity select the religious instructors of their own offspring, and impress on their minds those doctrines which they severally believe.

NORWICH.

EARNESTLY, therefore, would we call for the co-operation of all who can assist us in behalf of those children who are confided to our care. Let us not disgrace ourselves, and injure and disgrace the cause, by making the education of the poor a party question. We deprecate all hostility, all jealousy, between ourselves and the "National Schools" of this city; and if there is any rivalry between us, let it be amicable, for it will then be useful. We both pursue one common object, although there may be some difference in the modes adopted for obtaining it.

OSWESTRY.

This Institution is formed for bettering the condition of the poor, and increasing their comforts, within the Hundred of Os-

westry.

One important part of this design has been, by rewarding School-masters and those boys or girls who may be found in different Schools to have the best knowledge of the Bible, also those who excel in arithmetic and writing.

From their last Report we extract the following.

"With regard to the other prizes offered by the Society, it may be remarked, that the number of children at the general examination was considerably greater than in former years, and that the attainments of each were more nearly equal than had been before experienced. This circumstance might prove the increasing advantages of education within the Hundred, was it not also confirmed by the testimony of those who witnessed the examination."

Much and particular praise was due to the several Schoolmasters and mistresses who brought forward candidates, as the proficiency of the latter must no doubt be mainly attributed to the exertions of the former. Most attention seems to have been paid to the acquirement of knowledge in the Holy Scriptures, and justly so; but the other branches were by no means neglected. The arithmetical prizes had hitherto been bestowed almost without competition, but on the last examinations much improvement was perceptible; the specimens of writing were numerous and well executed. Hence it must be allowed that the rewards annually offered by the society, are producing no inconsiderable effects towards the melioration of the character and condition of the poor. They do not indeed operate with such rapidity as to have made any striking and visible change, yet they are working with a gradual and silent influence, which will in time more plainly develop itself.

In this Report we notice that Schools are established on the British System, at Oswestry for Boys and Girls, as well as at

Whittington, West Felton, and St. Martin's.

QUEBEC.

I AM requested by the Committee for promoting education in Canada, to send to England for six sets of the lessons now introduced to the Schools taught on the British System of Education: we are about to establish several new Schools in Canada on this plan. We have a number of young men who have been attending at the Quebec Free-school, one of whom will probably in the course of a few months set up a School in one of the townships in the Southern part of this province, and probably in the course of the coming summer we shall be enabled to set a School in operation at Montreal, and another at Kingston. I did, on the first winter after my arrival from England, procure a School to be opened at Montreal, which was well attended for a few months; but Mr. Edwards the instructor being found wholly inadequate to the business of conducting the School, we were under the necessity of discontinuing it. But we now have a prospect of its being revived under more favourable prospects of its permanency.

The exertions of our Committee have undoubtedly excited considerable attention. Five Free-schools are now established in Quebec besides the one supported by our Committee, exclusive of the one which long existed under the Catholic Bishop;

and probably not less than 400 or 500 children are now instructed, who would not have been, had no exertions been made by the Canada Committee.

READING.

ALL the hopes that were entertained of moral improvement in the lower classes of society have been realized; while all the apprehensions of danger to the ancient establishments of the country, and of producing a disinclination in the poor to perform the duties of their station, have vanished into air, and are found wholly groundless and visionary. Indeed it would have been next to a miracle, if the habits of regularity and order constantly exhibited in the School, if the reverence there inculcated for parents and teachers, and if the religious texts and sentiments continually pronounced within its walls, could pro-We have peduce any other than the most beneficial effects. culiar pleasure in communicating to you, that during the last year, more than usual attention has been paid to the Religious Instruction of the children, and to their proper observance of the Sabbath; as we are thoroughly sensible, that knowledge alone is an attainment of very doubtful value, and that to make it worth having and certain of producing good, it must be associated with, and grounded upon, that wisdom which cometh from above.

It will indeed be an honourable distinction for this country, an ambition new to states, but consoling to humanity and worthy the exertion of all our faculties; if, after having terminated the war with so much glory in the field, henceforth we are seen striving to take the lead in the arts of Peace, in healing those wounds which Christian nations have too long been inflicting on each other; and in communicating to our neighbours on the continent, together with the tidings of the Gospel, that which is best calculated to extend its influence by making it intelligible—the means of reading and digesting it, and of making it the companion of their home and their leisure.

The British and Foreign Bible Society and the British and Foreign School Society must be considered as twin societies; and it is impossible that those who approve of the one should not give their support to the other. If the Bible be an inestimable treasure, it is equally certain that the ability to read is

the key to it.

State of the Reading Free School, on the British System, March 9th, 1816.

From the commencement to the present time, 1344 Boys have been admitted.

Duting the past	vear	_	_	_	•	206
Of whom quitte	d Scho	ol for ser	vices, 8	zc.	46	-90
Removed by par		-	_	•	11	
Left Town	-	_	_	_	5	
Dismissed	-	-	-		4	
Apprenticed	-	-	_	_	1	
Dead -	-	-	-	-	1	
						68
					_	

Remain in the School 228

This number taken from 1344, leaves 1116 that have quitted the Institution from its commencement, after making pleasing and satisfactory proficiency in the various classes.

Progress in Reading.

93 Boys have learned to read the New Testament (several of whom could not tell their letters at the beginning of the year).

87 Have learned to read the Old Testament.

52 Are now learning to read select lessons from the Scriptures, with Dr. Watts's Hymns; and

64 are making rapid progress in the four junior classes.

Progress in Writing.

2110 Boys have received Copy Books, many of whom write very neat plain hands.

Progress in Arithmetic.

171 Boys have nearly mastered the four first rules, simple and compound,

31 have made great proficiency from Reduction to Practice inclusive, and three have reached vulgar Fractions.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

120 Boys repeat the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments, and such who are capable, I receive daily tasks selected from the Scriptures, out of which they repeat monthly from 4 to 500 portions. No boy is permitted to enter the School, until his parents have been first enjoined to see that he punctually attends some place of worship, or a Sunday School, (a

register of which attendance is taken every Monday morning,) whereby it is found that the following numbers regularly attend the undernamed places of worship, or the Sunday Schools connected with them.

At the three Churches		-	-	49
Castle-street Chapel	-	-	Ü	44
Broad-street Meeting		-	-	29
Hosier's-lane ditto	-	-	•	50
Salem Chapel -		-	=	36
Wesleyan Chapel	-	-	-	2
Silver-street Meeting	-	-	-	18
_			-	

228

SHADWELL.

The district which the Committee propose to you to include, extends from the Tower to the eastern end of Limehouse, and comprises six parishes within its limits, in which are situated the Trinity House, the London Docks, and that part of the river called the Pool; it is inhabited principally by labourers employed in the docks or amongst the shipping, and it contains nearly the whole of the men engaged in delivering the colliers and in getting ballast: a large proportion of these are natives of Ireland and Catholics, they have numerous families, their children are supported with difficulty, but they have no means of instruction odequate to their number; and the dreadful con-

sequence of their misfortune is very generally felt.

To endeavour to meliorate their sad condition, and to relieve its attendant wretchedness, an association was formed of respectable persons, who, as Christians, both Protestant and Catholic, resolving to proceed upon a broad and liberal basis, prepared a plan which (being considered as test adapted to the neighbourhood) was printed and circulated, and is embodied in the Resolutions which will be proposed to this Meeting. This plan was received with approbation; several Ministers of every denomination most cordially expressed their conviction of its utility, and declared their determination to assist in carrying it into effect. A subscription was commenced, and the Committee were encouraged to erect the present building, which it is intended to divide by a temporary partition, and to open for the reception of both boys and girls, until a more general assistance shall provide a sufficient fund to complete the original intention, and afford accommodation for one thousand children, by raising a Female

School on the adjoining vacant ground, and devoting the whole of *this* to the boys who will enter from Farmer-street, and thus be kept entirely distinct and separate from the Female School.

With this concise account the Committee would willingly close the present address; but they think it proper to state, that as the leading object of this Institution is to communicate the blessings of education to the children of the poor of every religious denomination, no particular tenets, nor any catechism formed upon them, could possibly be rendered applicable to a General School, in which, nevertheless, they consider it practicable to adopt a mode of teaching children, which shall be consonant with the elements of pure religion, and not offensive or objectionable to any of its experienced professors; and further, they would observe that if exclusive Schools had been competent to meet the distressing case, the number of such in this neighbourhood belonging to the National Church and to the Protestant dissenters would have rendered this appeal unnecessary: for they, if really adapted to the purpose, would in a great measure have removed those painful scenes which now agitate and excite the best feelings of our nature; and the Committee are persuaded, that while whole chapters of the Bible comprise the reading lessons in the School, and the children, trained to a due observance of the Christian Sabbath, are obliged to attend the public worship of their God and the private admonitions of their own ministers, they may with confidence believe that neither ignorance of particular doctrine, nor disregard to religion, its sanctuary, or its clergy, will be the consequence of the system they have determined to adopt and now venture to recom-They desire, however, with a deep consciousness of their own inability and short-sightedness, but with an humble hope, to leave the future consequences to that Almighty Being who accepts the pure intention of his erring creatures, and overruleth all things according to the purposes of his mercy; they seek to use the best means in their power to rescue all these little ones who now are in a state of ignorance and awful depravity; who now being under no restraint, either moral or religious, and exposed to the fatal contagion of the worst example, are equally regardless of God and man: it surely is an urgent and imperious duty, the longer neglect of which, admits neither palliation nor excuse! It surely is a duty interwoven with our nature, and inculcated by every feeling drawn from virtue or religion, to look at these children as they are, and, waiving every opposing consideration, to strive at once to implant a better principle and to raise a reformed character.

SHEFFIELD.

AFTER considering on the most suitable situation for a Schoolroom, and comparing the several places and plans proposed, it
was agreed by the Committee appointed to that part of the business, that a purchase should be made of the building occupied
for the Boys School, to be divided into two rooms,—an adequate part to be thus appropriated for the use of the Girls.

Accordingly, within a few days of this determination eighteen friends of the Institution were found, who advanced a loan of one hundred pounds each, towards the purchase and improvement of the premises, which are now held by them in trust for the public, subject to the gradual repayment of the sums thus subscribed. The Girls room was fitted up for the reception of 400; while the Boys School still remained sufficiently large for the accommodation of 600, which was nearly the average number on the list. A separate play-ground was appropriated to each, and the Schools were made entirely distinct from each other.

A proposal respecting the organization of the School was made early in last year to Ann Eliza Springman, who was at that time engaged in the Borough-road Institution, under the care of the British and Foreign School Society. The proposal was accepted, and the School opened under her superintendance, immediately after Midsummer; M. A. Barton being at the same

time introduced into the office of Governess.

Four hundred girls, including about fifty from the late School of Industry, were received in the course of the first few weeks. It was then judged most eligible that an assistant should be employed to take a part of the charge in needle-work, and whose attention should be confined to that alone. For this purpose Mary Hoyland, one of the Mistresses of the late School of Industry, was engaged, whose diligence and attention have proved

very satisfactory to the Committee and to visitors.

A. E. Springmann, after having accomplished the purpose of her engagement, in the organization of the School, requested that the week previous to her departure from Sheffield should be particularly set apart for the reception of visitors, and that on one day of the following week the children's parents should be invited. Invitation was accordingly given, and in the course of the week more than two hundred visitors examined the School-Much gratification was expressed by these, on observing the interesting display of attainments beyond what was expected, both with regard to several parts of the children's learning, and the attention evinced by their ready extempore answers to questions from their lessons after reading the Scriptures. The parents, of

whom a great number assembled on the appointed day, manifested great pleasure in witnessing the order of the School, and the care and instruction which their children were receiving.

SHREWSBURY. Page 5.

There is one feature in this School that merits attention, and distinguishes it from the generality of Subscription Schools, which will be best understood and most approved by those who are aware how much the characters of such as look to charity instead of industry for their support, are debased and degraded; —namely, that you require payment in return for the instruction you afford, assisting those who desire to educate and improve their children, and who, with the best parental feelings, are ready to labour and to devote a share of their earnings for a purpose that does them so much credit. From every child a weekly penny is received, by which the general expenses are very materially diminished. Perhaps, there is no Institution existing where so much instruction is given at a smaller if so small an expense; in which utility and ecconomy are so effectually combined.

It is no slight gratification to your Committee, that it is their duty not to confine your bounty to those who profess any one religious creed, to the exclusion of all others; because education has a happy influence over all, and the peaceable disposition and prosperity of the whole community depend on the habits and moral feelings of each individual of which it is composed.

Your late Master, Mr. Penney, to whose exertions you are considerably indebted, having resigned his situation, your Committee, agreeably to the rules, proceeded to the election of another. Their choice fell on Mr. T E. Jones, the present master, whose talents and assiduity answer their most sanguine expectations, and have produced, and they have no doubt will produce, the happiest results.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE EDUCATION OF THE POOR OF IRELAND.

1 192 -24 17

The subscriptions for the year amounted to the sum of 1331. 3s. 6d. and the donations to the sum of 3031. 17s. 6d., in which is included a donation of 701. British, received from that truly philanthropic Institution "The Edinburgh Society for promoting the Education of the Poor in Ireland," whose anxiety

for this country's welfare so fully entitled them to the thanks unanimously voted at your last Annual Meeting, and which, together with the very liberal donation above mentioned, cannot fail to awaken the attention of the most heedless in this country to the subject of National Education, and to excite throughout it the warmest gratitude for such distinguished and disinterested munificence.

Your Committee beg leave also to state, that the Society is in correspondence with 112 Schools through the country, and that the depository established at Cork during the year, for the sale of lessons, stationery, &c. has succeeded so far as to justify the formation of similar stores in other large towns;—a measure which they recommend to the consideration of their successors, as one likely to be attended with beneficial results.

In the last Report of the Society, the then Committee stated, "that having in a great measure failed of procuring through individual bounty sufficient funds, and not having any prospect of being more successful within any reasonable time, they had determined to apply for parliamentary aid, in order to procure a fund for the erecting of a suitable building for a Model School, and a Seminary for the instruction of Masters, and had framed a petition to the House of Commons for that purpose." Pursuant to which determination, your Committee have now to inform the Society, that a petition was accordingly presented, setting forth the principles and objects of the Society, and stating the absolute necessity which occasioned the application; and Parliament has been pleased to grant the sum of 6,980l. for the abovementioned objects. In consequence of which your Committee have been busily employed in procuring a suitable piece of ground on which to erect such building.

It has long been matter of regret with most of those who have paid attention to the subject of Education in Ireland, that moral and instructive books were, on account of their very scanty supply and their high price, placed in a great measure beyond the means of the lower orders of the people, while books of an injurious tendency, from their great supply and extreme cheapness, are easily obtained by the most needy. To remedy this evil, the best mode that suggested itself to your Committee, and in which they were confirmed by the 14th Report of the Commissioners of Education, was to afford an adequate supply of moral and instructive books, at a price sufficiently moderate to ensure their coming into the market at least on equal terms with those of a pernicious tendency. The remedy was obvious; but the means of supplying it far beyond the funds of the Society to afford at present; and, under the existing necessities of all classes in the country, the time appeared to be very

far removed indeed when the Society would be enabled, from private subscriptions alone, to bear the expense of a supply of such works on sufficiently cheap terms; while the bad effects from pernicions publications were daily becoming more alarming, and, in the opinion of many, threatening to convert the education of the poor into an evil of worse tendency than that

which their instruction is intended to remove.

Under these circumstances your Committee submitted a petition to the House of Commons, stating the nature of the case, and praying aid "to enable this Society to provide and distribute moral and instructive books, and to assist them in diffusing an improved system of education amongst the lower orders of the people of Ireland:" in which petition, as in the preceding, the principles on which your Society are pledged to act were most explicitly declared, as also your determination to adhere to them; and which principles, your Committee feel happy in stating, have now been sanctioned in two instances by the legislature, they having with cheerfulness assented to the prayer of the petition, and granted the sum of 6000l. for the last-mentioned purposes.

The lower orders seek education with avidity—to the middling and upper orders it is every day appearing of increased importance, and receiving additional friends and support, while Parliament has extended its aid to it—a liberality suited to the high character of the legislature of the greatest empire in the

world in the most enlightened age of its existence.

Your Institution has wisely met and assisted the growing temper of the times,—you have calmly advanced with them—used no force—expressed no impatience,—the progress of education, since you commenced your efforts, has been gradual but steady, as is the growth of every thing destined to be great and permanent:—but, though gradual, your Committee trust that its effect will at no distant day be sensibly felt throughout the country,—that the oldest amongst us may yet hope to witness much of our ignorance and its consequences dissipated—while those who are still young may expect to see this eminently an educated, a moral, and a happy country.

Thirty-eight Masters have been trained, and about a hundred

Schools supplied with lessons, slates, &c.

SOUTHAMPTON.

MOVED by Charles Marrett, Esq. and seconded by Charles Stokes Dudley, Esq. That this Meeting cordially approve of the object and constitution of the British and Foreign School Society; and that the School already established in this town,

under the British System of Education, be henceforth considered as an Auxiliary to the before-mentioned Society, and shall cooperate with it in promoting the great cause of Universal Education; —and that, pursuant to the British System of Education, it shall be a fundamental rule of this Society, that every child shall attend some place of divine worship on the Sunday, to effect which a register shall be kept, and the children shall be conducted every Sunday to such place of religious worship as their parents prefer.

The effects and satisfactory progress of the system were soon evident from the increase of Scholars;—the number of boys admitted during the first year was 207, and at the end of the

second year 197 boys remained on the books.

The Institution being founded on the broad basis of teaching the children to read the scriptures alone, in the reception of which all believers in a Divine revelation agree, it has not been required of the children to learn any particular catechism, or to adopt any particular or sectarian tenets; but every parent has been left at liberty to teach at home what catechism soever he might prefer. That there should be a considerable difference in opinion with respect to many points of religious doctrine, is easily accounted for; and though individuals may justly be allowed to support their own particular views in institutions of a more limited and personal nature; yet in public institutions like the present object of our Report, no particular creed ought to be taught:—this is the office of parents, and of the religious instructors of the different Societies where they attend for religious instruction.

Where the general benefit of mankind is kept in view, some broad and general system of instruction must necessarily be adopted if we would ensure success; "such a system as would satisfy our brethren of every persuasion, that the object is not to proselyte individuals who entertain sentiments different from our own, but to establish the conviction of those important truths which are held in common by every description of Christians."

In the year 1812 the School continued in a course of progressive improvement: 450 boys had been admitted into it, and there were then 191 boys under instruction. At that period it was deemed adviseable to use some endeavours to effect a union of this School with that about to be established in the town under the exclusive patronage of the Established Church. For this purpose a Select Committee was appointed to confer with the Sub-Committee of that School: but upon an application made to such Sub-Committee it was answered, that they did not feel themselves at liberty to enter into a conference, and therefore no further proceedings could be had on this important point, and the practicability of the plan could not be ascer-

tained. This subject has not been since revived on either side. As far as respects this Society, it has been observed that the two Schools need not be detrimental to each other, but that the joint exertions of the public in the support of each would promote the benevolent intentions of both institutions, and equally serve the purposes of Universal Education.

SUNDERLAND.

The late Master of the School, Mr. Francis Warren, being removed by death in January last, immediate application was made to the Committee of the British and Foreign School Society in London, to furnish a successor; to which they promptly acceded, and sent Mr. John Daniel, an officer in their Institution, to re-organize the School, and remain until a Master, properly trained, could be ready to take his place.

Your Committee have great satisfaction in informing you that the School is now full, and in a better state of discipline and order than at any former period, and that the boys are making

great progress in improvement.

The following is the Master's Report: April 30, 1816.

The number of boys at present on the lists is 245*, of whom

19 are learning the alphabet.

46 spell and write syllables and words of two letters.

20 spell and write syllables and words of three letters.32 spell and write syllables and words of four letters.

36 spell and write monosyllables of five and more letters, and read easy extracts from the New Testament.

30 spell and write words of two syllables, and read extracts

from the New Testament.

38 spell and write words of three syllables, and read extracts

from the Scriptures.

245 boys.

24 spell and write polysyllables, and read extracts from Scripture. They write also in copy-books: and, to afford a more connected and general knowledge of redemption than the reading lessons contain, this class read aloud to the whole School six or eight chapters from the New Testament every week.

92 are learning to cypher.
(Signed) JOHN DANIEL.

^{*} About 50 boys have been placed on the list for admission since the General Meeting.

In the course of the last summer your Committee directed their attention to the institution of a School for Girls; when the upper room of the building was ordered to be prepared for that purpose, and a young woman sent to Newcastle to receive instruction for its superintendance at the "Improved School." In this department your Committee have great pleasure in reporting the success which has attended their endeavours. A Committee of Ladies, who visit the School in rotation, two each week, meet on the first Monday of every month to receive applications for admission, and to transact all other business relating thereunto. The girls are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and needlework, in classes, on the new plan. The School was opened in August, and is now in an excellent state of order and progressive improvement.

The Mistress's Report of Girls under her care: April 30, 1816.

Total	number	176*.
-------	--------	-------

In the 1st (or alphabet)	class	10	
2d	•	do.	33	
3d		do.	20	
4th	-	do.	30	
5th		do.	35	
6th		do.	22	
7th		do.	16	
8th		do.	10	
			-	
			176 g	rls
,	Working C	lasses.		
	ming		.70	
Seam	ing		. 56	
* Stitel	hing		. 37	
Gath	ering		. 12	
Butte	on-holes		. 1	

176 girls.
(Signed) CHARLOTTE HAYSON.

In concluding their Report, your Committee beg leave briefly to advert to the "British and Foreign School Society" established in London for the purposes of general instruction, having in its liberal and extended view "the whole human race for its object, and the world for its scene of operation;" and your Committee consider it a favourable circumstance, that,

^{*} Upwards of 60 girls have been admitted since the General Meeting; all except the 1st class are writing, and 20 are learning to cypher.

having embraced the privilege of a correspondence with tha Society, their successors will be enabled to avail themselv es o the various improvements introduced into the Schools on the British System, which promise the most beneficial results.

This Institution, therefore, may be justly considered as a part of that comprehensive plan, which, if properly supported and directed, will prove of incalculable benefit to the whole human family, and, united with the "British and Foreign Bible Society," be a means (through the Divine blessing) of conveying the truths of Christianity not only to the habitations of poverty in our own country, but also to the inhabitants of the remotest regions, bearing along with them the angelic anthem of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men!"

SWANSEA.

The progress of this School since the last Report has been uniform and satisfactory. From its commencement in January 1806, up to the 31st December last (a period of ten years), the total number of poor children admitted amounted to 1220; but from its re-organization under the present Master in July 1813, to the above-mentioned time, 512 have been admitted, of whom

220 are now receiving the benefits of the Institution.

When your Committee review the number actually admitted, and especially when they trace the progress of some of the individuals who have been educated in this Institution (which they have had occasional opportunities of doing), together with that degree of credit with which many of the children have left the School, and the pleasing prospect of their being likely to become useful members of society, your Committee have the satisfaction of reflecting that much good has already been effected, and that your exertions have not been in vain. If you view the general conduct of the children of the poor in this town at the present time, and compare it with what it was a few years back, and see what an amazing change has taken place, you naturally ask, To what cause is this change to be attributed? and your Committee feel not the hesitation of a moment in ascribing it to the establishment of this Institution. But when they contemplate the numbers still consigned to hopeless ignorance, and its (almost inevitable) consequences, vice and misery, they feel themselves stimulated to additional exertions, and the adoption of the spirit of the ancient maxim, that "nothing should be considered as done while any thing remains undone."

It is in this way that the friends of Education ought to be affected by the magnitude of the task which yet remains to be

performed; and much encouragement may be derived from what has already been effected. Of the many thousands whom institutions similar to our own have already educated, how small a proportion had any prospect a very few years ago of escaping from that mental darkness in which they were involved! Nor is it one of the least encouraging circumstances, that our example has stimulated the greater number of those who were originally hostile to the cause of education to a salutary jealousy; so that rivalship and competition have been converted into means of diffusing its advantages, and extending its triumphs.

Your Committee therefore feel no jealousy, but, on the contrary, cordially hail the progress of those Schools in the Principality which apply the modern improvement in Education to the instruction of children in the principles of the Established In their exertions we rejoice. Let them educate as Church. extensively as possible. The more extensively the better. There is ample scope for the benevolent efforts of all. We would, however, amicably contend with them, that ours is the truly National Plan; for we know neither sect nor party. is sufficient that the applicant is ignorant, and desires to be in-Nor does this proceed from indifference, or apathy, with respect to the highest of all interests; for although we do not feel ourselves at liberty to restrict the blessings of education to the professors of any of those various creeds which have divided the opinions of so many good and pious men in all ages, we are anxious to instruct the children of our Institution in those momentous points in which we are all agreed, and to fix the foundation of their moral duties upon the immoveable basis furnished by the volume of Divine inspiration.

The distinguishing feature of this System is that which makes the Schools accessible to children of every religious denomination; and it is this cause which has secured it the universal ap-

probation of so many of the powers of Europe.

Report of the present State of the School; 31st December 1815.

229 poor children remain on the books,						
1st or sand class	10					
2d class, writing on slates words of two letters	21					
3d class, writing on slates words of three letters	29					
4th class, writing on slates words of four letters	15					
5th class, writing on slates words of five letters	21					
6th class, writing on slates words of two syllables	25					
7th class, writing on slates words of three syllables	25					
8th class, writing on slates words of four and five syllables	60					
9th or grammar class	23					
	-					

TROY TOWN, KENT.

FROM the labours of the children in the Female School 1500 garments have been made yearly, and distributed amongst the poor petitioners to the Dorcas Society; besides other work taken in, the profits of which are applied for the purpose of general benefit.

WATERFORD SCHOOLS OF INDUSTRY.

In presenting the annual statement of the funds, the Committee earnestly solicit the attention of the public to the claims which these Schools have on their benevolence. One hundred and sixty children are at present educated; they receive a daily allowance of bread, and are for the most part comfortably clothed by the Institution. Great care is taken to have the duties of the different departments discharged with fidelity; and the Committee feel a confidence that considerable improvement has been made of late in this Establishment, and that the children will be found to have made an agreeable progress in their learning.

It must be evident, on inspecting the state of the funds, that the annual subscriptions would by no means have been adequate to the expenditure; and were it not for some seasonable donations, considerable difficulty would have been experienced; yet the Committee, relying on the well known liberality of the inhabitants of Waterford, trust that they will not allow these Schools to suffer, which are so useful in promoting that truly

desirable object—the Education of the Poor.

WHITBY GIRLS SCHOOLS. Page 4.

As was observed in the last Report, their improvement in good morals, especially in the principles of honesty and truth, is of too pleasing a nature to be passed by in silence: and the confirmation it has received in several remarkable instances during the past year, will, no doubt, obtain a ready pardon for the repetition of it here. This, more than any thing else, should be the object of our wishes; and in its accomplishment all the patrons of this Establishment must rejoice in a result so friendly to the interests of society. The approbation expressed by the several Members of the Committee at the Monthly Meetings is the best proof that can be adduced of the advancement of the girls in the sewing, knitting, and spinning departments. The

last-mentioned useful employment has been introduced only within the space of a few months, and has been pursued with such unremitted application by the learners, that very soon (having now in readiness for the loom twenty pounds of line) it is expected a web of cloth will be produced, spun by those who, before the above period, knew not how to use a wheel. The cloth is proposed to be given in articles of apparel as re-

wards to the girls.

The Report of the State of the School exhibits the number of girls admitted since the last annual meeting to have been 67; and of those who have left it, from the various causes assigned at the end of this Report, 39; leaving the total now on the foundation 177; a number which the Committee think it not proper to increase, on account of the limited dimensions of the room. It may not be improper to remark, that all those who have been withdrawn by their parents, with the exception of one, have expressed with gratitude their sense of the value of this Institution, and have lamented the necessity which deprived them of its advantages.

HIGH WYCOMB.

THE difficulty of finding a suitable place for a School, it must be remembered, was found to be so great at the time the Society was formed, that after sufficient funds were collected fifteen months passed away without a School. The place then fixed on, and ever since used, has great inconveniences, which have been stated in former Reports; but the excellence of the method of teaching is rendered more evident by the uniform prosperity of the School under all its disadvantages. Your Committee have now the pleasure to announce that the Mayor and Corporation have given them a piece of ground near the turnpike, which they consider a good situation; for this handsome grant your Committee have presented their best thanks. Here a large room may be built sufficient for the accommodation of all the boys who are likely to attend: it is also desirable to have an adjoining house for the Master, which would not only be a great advantage to himself, but a material security to the premises.

Many of your Scholars, after leaving the School to enter into productive employment, have at their own cost attended with other persons an Evening School established by the Master, and have thus given a gratifying proof that they properly estimate

the advantages of education.

The Right Honourable Lord Carrington having kindly granted the use of some rooms for the purpose, the opportunity no sooner occurred than the Ladies, acting with laudable promptitude and zeal, raised a fund, and have admitted into their School 120 girls, who are making considerable progress in reading,

writing, arithmetic, and needlework.

By the direction of the Ladies a young woman has been instructed in the Chelsea School (established for the purpose of training) for a mistress, and she is expected to be able to undertake the superintendance of the School in the course of a few weeks. As this School is supported by a separate Subscription, and is wholly under the direction of the Ladies, they will doubtless take the most proper method of informing the Subscribers of their proceedings. But your Committee cannot forbear adverting to this new Institution, as arising in connection with their own; and especially when they recollect that the benefits likely to result from such an establishment were pressed upon their attention at your last Anniversary by that devoted philanthropist the late Joseph Fox.

The first time that Mr. Fox addressed a public assembly on the subject of education was in this Hall; and many now present will recollect with what simplicity and clearness he explained the new method of teaching, and how forcibly he

stated its advantages.

The Ladies held their first Anniversary School Meeting on the 21st of December 1816. They have 120 girls in a very improved state, and have defrayed every expense of fitting up a school-room, salary of the mistress, rewards, and incidental ex-

penses.

LIST OF PLACES

At which Schools have leen formed, in whole or in part, on the British System; with the Number of Children, where the same has been returned to the Committee.

		Luk		
School, where situate.		ent. No. of Girls.		Articles supplied from the British and Foreign School Society.
ABERDEEN (Girls) Aberdeen (Boys) Abergavenny Aldborough Allomby Alnwick Arundel Bath	-		1069	Slates, pencils, lessons, marks, &c. Lessons, slates, pencils, lessons, badges, marks. { Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, } marks, &c. Lessons, slates, badges, marks, &c. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c. Lessons, blates, badges, marks, &c. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, abels.
Belfast Bermondsey	250 320	-	800	Slates, lessons, pencils, badges, marks, &c.
Beverley Birmingham Blackheath Blandford	405 —	_	1536	Lessons, slates, badges, marks, &c. Slates, lessons. Slates, lessons, Slates, lessons, marks, badges, la-
Boston	2 82	202	650	Slates, pencils, lessons, marks, labels, &c.
Bradford, Yorkshire Braintree Brecon Bridport	_	116 — —	=	Slates, pencils, lessons, marks, badges. Lessons, badges. Badges, lessons, marks, slates, pencils. Slates, pencils, lessons, marks, badges.
Brighton Bristol Brompton Park, near' Huntingdon	250	- 1	2500	Lessons, slates, marks, badges, &c. Slates, labels, lessons, marks, &c. Lessons, slates, marks, badges, &c.
Burlington Bury St. Edmond's Caermarthen	 176 	_	506 —	Slates. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels, &c.
Caernarvon	-		_ (Lessons, badges.

	Pres	ent.	Total fromthe	Articles supplied from the British
School, where situate.	No.of	No.of		and Foreign School Society.
	Boys.		ning.	
0.1				Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
Camberwell	179	100	547	Lessons, marks.
Camborne	_	_		Lessons, marks.
Cantanhama	1 1	\ <u> </u>		Lessons, slates, badges, marks, &c.
('3'Ar		_	_	Lessons, marks, badges.
Carlisle	155	_		Slates, lessons, marks, &c.
01 11	1 . 1		134	Slates, pencils, lessons, badges,
Charlbury	60	61	154	marks, labels.
Chelmsford	-	-		Slates, pencils, lessons.
Chelsea	1_1	_	_	Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
0111				Lessons, slates, marks, &c.
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	-			§ Lessons, slates, pencils, badges.
Chinkford	-	-		marks, &c.
ati n i	20.		0000	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, la-
City Road	605	-	2066	bels, &c.
Clewer		_		Lessons, slates, pencils, &c.
Clowance	1 - 1	-	_	Slates, lessons, marks, badges, labels.
Cockroad (Boys &	1 _ 1	_		Lessons, badges, marks, labels.
Girls)				
Coloborton	-	_	_	Lessons, slates, badges, marks. Lessons, badges,
Colchester	1 00.	90	918	Lessons, slates, marks, &c.
Coventry	1 1	-30	310	Lessons, slates, badges, marks.
Cuardon	100	_	226	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
Dean Street, Soho	1 1	_	-	Lessons, marks, labels, &c.
Deptford	1 000	_	1200	Lessons, labels, marks, slates.
Derby		_	_	Lessons, slates, labels, marks, &c.
Ditchling	0.71	5 S	165	Lessons, slates, marks, badges.
Dorking	-	-	_	Lessons, slates, pencils, badges, marks.
Dover	-	_	_	Slates, lessons.
Dublin House of In-	 -	_	_	Slates.
dustry 5	400	- 20		Lessons, badges, marks, labels.
Dudley	1			(Slates, pencils, lessons, badges,
Eagle Street	118	67	7.62	merits, &c.
Eastbourne	1 —	_	—	Slates, lessons, medals, &c.
Ebbw Vale				Slates, lessons, labels, badges, &c.
Edinburgh			_	Lessons, slates, marks, badges, medals.
Exeter (Boys and Girls)	_	_		Labels, marks, badges, slates,
27 21 1 1				lessons, &c.
Falkland	1-	_	=	Lessons, labels, marks. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
Falmouth		159		Lessons, slates.
Tolan.	1	15.		Lessons, tables, badges, marks, &e.
Fenny-Stratford		_	_	Slates, medals.
Firle	1	_	_	Lessons.
Folkestone		30	208	Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, mcdals,
Glasgow	1	_	—	Lessons, marks, badges, labels.
Glocester	1 -	-	_	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
Godalming	1 165	125	425	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
	,			

School, where situate.	Present. No.01 No.0 Boys Firls		
Guildford Hailsham Halifax Halstead Handley Harlow	213 123		Slates, lessons, marks, badges. Lessons, badges, marks, labels. Slates, lessons, marks, badges. Slates, lessons, marks, labels, &c. Lessons, slates. Slates.
Hebburn Colliery Hertford (Boys & Girls) Hibernian Society	===	23,000	Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, marks, labels, &c. Slates, lessons, marks, badges, medals.
Hitchen			Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c. Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, merits, &c. Slates, lessons, badges.
Horncastle	118 90	666	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c. Slates, lessons, marks, badges, labels, Slates. Lessons, labels, marks, slates,
Islington, (Boys and Girls)	185 110		Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
Knutsford		-	Slates, pencils, lessons, badges, marks, labels.
Lamb's Buildings Leatherhead Leeds		=	Lessons, slates, labels, marks. Lessons, medals. Lessons, marks, badges, medals.
Lewes	211 146	1036	Lessons, marks, badges, medals. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels, &c. Lessons, slates, merits, badges.
Sexes about	500.		Lessons, slates, badges, marks, &c.
Lynn Maidstone Maidstone (Depôt) Margate	159 -	-	Slates, lessons, marks, badges, medals. Lessons, slates, badges, pencils, &c. Lessons, slates, badges, pencils, &c. Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels.
Middlesex School Minchinhampton Montrose Nowhwar	206 — 246 115	264	Lessons, slates. Slates, lessons, badges, marks. Slates, lessons, marks, badges. Slates, pencils, lessons, badges,
Newbury Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Boys and Girls) New Lanark			Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels. Slates, lessons, tables, marks, labels.
Newport, Isle of Wight. Newport, Monmouth- shire	161 —	_	Lessons, badges, marks, slates, &c. Lessons, slates, marks, badges. Lessons, slates, medals, labels.
Treffore ragner			werdered diseased sees and a feet and

	1			1
	Pres	ent.	Total	
School, where situate.		-	fromthe	Articles supplied from the British
benoon, where stedates	No of	No.of		and Foreign School Society.
	Boys.	Girls.		
Northampton	282	215		Lessons, slates, pencils, marks, &c.
37 . 1 1	352		484	Slates, lessons, labels, marks, &c.
	1			
Oxford	-	-	-	Slates, lessons, marks, badges.
Oxford Street	-	-		Slates.
Paddington	-	-		Slates, badges, marks, lessons.
Peckham (Boys and)		_		Lessons, slates, marks, badges.
Girls) }	_			Lessons, states, marks, bauges.
Perran Well	-	-		Lessons, badges, marks, labels
Pertenhall, near Wol- ?	1			
verhampton				Lessons, marks, slates.
Plymouth	_			Slates, lessons, badges, &c.
			_	Lessons, slates, medals, labels.
Plymouth Dock				thessons, states, medals, labels.
Poole	-		-	Slates, pencils, lessons, marks, labels.
Portsea (Boys and Girls)	_	_		Slates, pencils, lessons, badges,
` • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				marks, &c.
Quebec	200		-	
Reading	228		1344	Lessons, slates, marks, &c.
Rochester	_			Slates, lessons, pencils.
Rochford	_			Lessons, badges, marks, slates.
Ross (Boys and Girls)		-	=	States, lessons, marks, labels, &c.
D-41		<u>`</u>		Lessons, badges, marks, labels.
D1a	_			Slates, pencils, marks, badges, tables.
C-141		_	=	
Saltash	_	-	_	Slates, lessons, marks, labels, badges.
Scarborough	77.		CO0	Lessons, marks, badges.
Shadwell	445		628	Slates, pencils, lessons, marks, badges.
Sheffield	600	400	_	Slates, tables, lessons.
Shefford	76		100	
Sherborne		-	-	slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels.
Shields, North	-	_		Lessons.
		100		(Slates, pencils, lessons, badges,
Shrewsbury	175	102	-	marks, &c.
Sion Chapel		_		Lessons, slates.
Sion Chapei]			Slates, lessons, pencils, marks,
Southampton	—			
				badges, &c.
Southgate		_	_	Lessons, labels, slates, marks, &c.
Spitalfields (Boys and)	-			Slates, lessons, labels, marks, &c.
Girls)	}			
Staines	1 —	_	_	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels.
St. George's	l —	_	_	Slates.
St. Giles's Catholic }				Oliton Transaction Inches and Oliton
School S	_	-		Slates, lessons, badges, pencils.
Sunderland	245	176		Lessons, marks, slates, pencils.
Cutton Do le	1	_		Lessons, slates, pencils.
Con - Albania	1		=	Lessons, slates, badges, marks.
	1 000			
The of the all	100		_	Lessons, badges, marks.
Tavistock				Slates, lessons, marks, labels, &c.
Tewkesbury	113	81	564	Lessons.
Tottenham (Boys and ?	I		_	Slates, lessons, marks, badges.
Girls) 5		_		
Tremadoc			-	Lessons, badges.
Troy Town, Kent	1 180	100		

School, where situate.	No.of	No.of Girls.		Articles supplied from the British and Foreign School Society.
Tyne Iron Works				Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels,
Uske	<u> </u>	_	_	Lessons.
Uxbridge	1	_		Slates, labels.
Wakefield	I -	-	-	Lessons, marks.
Waterford	160	-	-	
Wellington	1-	-		Lessons, slates, marks, &c.
West Street, Seven Dials	-		_	Lessons, slates, badges, marks.
Weymouth	-		_	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, &c.
Whitby	228	177	531	Marks.
Whittington	-	-		Slates, lessons, marks, labels, &c.
Wisbech	-	-		Slates, lessons, labels, marks.
Weburn, Bedfordshire	107	-		Lessons, marks, labels.
Woburn, Bucks	-	-	-	Slates, lessons, badges, marks, labels
Worcester	-	-	-	Slates, medals, lessons.
Wycombe, High	200	120	444	Lessons, slates, marks, &c.
Yarmouth	1	-		Slates.







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